United Nations A/67/253–S/2012/594

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 August 2012

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Item 73 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council the seventeenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, submitted by the President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda in accordance with article 32 of its statute (see Security Council resolution 955 (1994), annex), which states:

> The President of the International Tribunal for Rwanda shall submit an annual report of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to the Security Council and to the General Assembly.

* A/67/150.

12-45263 (E) 300812

Please recycle

Letter of transmittal

1 August 2012

I have the honour to submit the seventeenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, dated 1 August 2012, to the General Assembly and the Security Council, pursuant to article 32 of the statute of the International Tribunal.

(*Signed*) Vagn **Joensen**
President

President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York

Seventeenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Summary

The present annual report outlines the activities of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Over the last year, the Tribunal has continued its efforts to complete its remaining workload at the trial and appeals levels in the most expeditious manner possible. Despite continued challenges related to staff retention and recruitment, the Tribunal has made significant progress, delivering five trial judgements during the reporting period. One trial judgement involving one accused remains to be delivered. Completion of the first instance work is expected by the end of 2012.

The Appeals Chamber rendered seven judgements concerning eight persons, bringing the total number of persons whose judgements have been completed at the appellate level to 43. Completion of the appeals work is expected by the end of 2014.

The Office of the Prosecutor focused on tracking of fugitives, referral of cases to national jurisdictions and support for national authorities in the prosecution of crimes relating to the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Continuous support was also extended to Rwandan authorities to assist them in preparing for the transfer of cases from the Tribunal.

The Registry continued to provide a high level of administrative and judicial support to the Tribunal. It ensured the cooperation and assistance of Member States with the Tribunal and further strengthened its outreach and capacity-building activities in Rwanda. Trial proceedings continued to receive support from the various units and sections of the Judicial and Legal Services Division. The Division of Administrative Support Service sustained its work to ensure the efficient management of the Tribunal's downsizing process.

All organs of the Tribunal are ensuring their best efforts to complete the work of the Tribunal expeditiously and to prepare for a smooth transition to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The following efforts require essential cooperation and support of Member States: (a) three fugitives remain to be arrested; (b) five acquitted persons and three persons who have completed their sentences need countries for relocation; and (c) the Tribunal needs to be provided with sufficient resources to be in a position to complete its tasks within the expected time frame. The Tribunal relies on the ongoing support of Member States to achieve these goals.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	5
II.	Activities of the Tribunal	5
	A. Activities of the President	5
	B. Activities of the coordination mechanisms	6
	C. Activity of the Chambers	7
	D. Activities of the Office of the Prosecutor	12
	E. Activities of the Registry	13
III.	Conclusion and recommendations	19

I. Introduction

1. The present seventeenth annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994 outlines the activities of the Tribunal for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

2. The Tribunal, through the Office of the President, the Chambers, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry, has continued its efforts to meet the goals of its completion strategy, as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1503 (2003), with intense trial, referral and appeals activity and the drafting of judgements.

II. Activities of the Tribunal

3. As at 30 June 2012, the Tribunal consists of the Trial Chamber, the Appeals Chamber, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry. On 25 August 2011, Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark) was elected Vice-President, and on 14 February 2012, in anticipation of the redeployment of President Khalida Rachid Khan (Pakistan) to the Appeals Chamber, Judge Joensen was elected President and Judge Florence Rita Arrey (Cameroon) was elected Vice-President.

A. Activities of the President

1. Judicial activity

4. During the reporting period, the President made decisions granting the early release applications of three convicted persons who had served more than three fourths of their sentences. The President also ordered the transfer of eight convicted persons to Member States for the enforcement of their sentences. The transfers will all have been completed by 1 July 2012.

5. The President also issued orders and decisions on a variety of other matters, including State cooperation, witness protection review and conditions for monitoring of referred cases. Notably, in the *Uwinkindi* case, which was referred to Rwanda pursuant to rule 11 bis of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, the President issued a decision on 5 April 2012 clarifying the modalities for the monitoring of the case in Rwanda, including the interim use of staff of the Tribunal as monitors in order to avoid further delays in the transfer of Mr. Uwinkindi to Rwanda. The President also issued formal guidelines for Tribunal staff acting as monitors in referred cases on 29 June 2012.

2. Completion strategy

6. In close cooperation with the Prosecutor and the Registrar, the President has continued to implement the Tribunal's completion strategy. On 7 December 2011 and 7 June 2012, the President presented the six-monthly completion strategy reports to the Security Council. In the course of the reporting period, the Tribunal

issued five judgements at the trial level and seven judgements at the appeals level concerning a total of 17 accused. The work at the trial level is complete in all but one case, in which judgement is expected by the end of 2012.

7. Staff attrition remains a major impediment to the timely achievement of the goals of the completion strategy. Between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012, a total of 247 staff members left the Tribunal. This includes 14 staff members from Chambers, 57 from the Office of the Prosecutor and the remainder from the various sections of the Registry. The replacement of departing staff members is a lengthy process, which, even in a best-case scenario, would result in delays and could compensate for the continuing loss of institutional memory. The Security Council, in resolution 2054 (2012), reiterated its call upon the Secretariat and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to work with the Registrar of the Tribunal in order to find practicable solutions to address the staffing situation.

8. The Security Council, in its resolution 1966 (2010) which established the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, requested the Secretary-General to make the practical arrangements necessary for the commencement of the Mechanism's operations. From February 2011, under the direction of the Office of Legal Affairs, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda worked jointly to implement that mandate. The initial priority was to develop a budget proposal for the biennium 2012-2013 and draft rules of procedure and evidence. Both were successfully submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs by July 2011. The next steps focused on harmonizing the policies, procedures and operations of the two Tribunals, and initial provision by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda of administrative services to the Mechanism. As a result of those efforts, the Arusha branch of the Mechanism was opened on 1 July 2012.

3. Diplomatic relations and other representation

9. The President maintained regular contact with United Nations Headquarters and with the diplomatic community in the host country in New York and in other countries. The United Nations Secretariat, and the Office of Legal Affairs in particular, provided important legal advice and diplomatic support to ensure smooth cooperation between the Tribunal, the Security Council and the General Assembly.

10. On the occasion of their briefings before the Security Council, both the President and the Prosecutor of the Tribunal participated in meetings of the Security Council Informal Working Group on International Tribunals. This allowed for comprehensive and open discussions with the legal advisers of the members of the Security Council.

B. Activities of the coordination mechanisms

1. Coordination Council

11. The Coordination Council, consisting of the President, the Prosecutor and the Registrar, met regularly to discuss issues affecting the entire Tribunal, such as the completion strategy, staffing, cooperation with the International Residual Mechanism and budgetary matters.

2. Bureau

12. The Bureau, which, during the reporting period, was composed of the President, the Vice-President and the presiding judges of the two Trial Chambers, was consulted by the President in regular meetings and through written exchanges on issues relating to the functioning of the Tribunal.

3. Plenary sessions

13. During the reporting period, the Tribunal's judges did not hold a formal plenary session, however, secret ballot elections for President and Vice-President were held twice during the reporting period (in August 2011 and February 2012) in lieu of plenary sessions.

4. Rules Committee

14. The Rules Committee submits or discusses proposals for amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. During the reporting period, the Committee was composed of judges Joensen (Chair), Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation) and Seon Ki Park (Republic of Korea) and assisted by legal officers from Chambers. For matters relevant to the general conduct of trials, the Committee sits in an extended format, supported by representatives of the Office of the Prosecutor and the Defence Counsel. The Committee met regularly to discuss the potential need for any further amendments to the rules as part of downsizing and worked, in close cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, on providing comments to the draft rules of procedure and evidence of the International Residual Mechanism to the Office of Legal Affairs.

C. Activity of the Chambers

1. Composition of the Chambers

15. As of 30 June 2012, the Chambers comprise one Trial Chamber and one Appeals Chamber and are composed of 11 permanent judges and three ad litem judges.

16. One permanent judge and all ad litem judges are members of the Trial Chamber. One permanent judge, Dennis Byron (St. Kitts and Nevis) and seven ad litem judges, Emile Francis Short (Ghana), Arrey (Cameroon), Aydin Sefa Akay (Turkey), Lee Gacuiga Muthoga (Kenya), Park (Republic of Korea), Gberdao Gustave Kam (Burkina Faso) and Robert Fremr (Czech Republic), left the Tribunal after completion of their final cases.

17. Ten permanent judges sit on the Appeals Chamber. With the redeployment of judges Arlette Ramaroson (Madagascar), Khan and Tuzmukhamedov to the Appeals Chamber during the reporting period, five are now from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: Mehmet Güney (Turkey), Ramaroson (Madagascar), Andrésia Vaz (Senegal), Khan (Pakistan) and Tuzmukhamedov (Russian Federation). The five other permanent judges on the Appeals Chamber are from the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia: Theodor Meron (United States of America) as presiding judge, Patrick Robinson (Jamaica), Fausto Pocar (Italy), Liu Daqun (China) and Carmel Agius (Malta).

18. The Trial Chamber is currently composed of judge/President Joensen (Denmark), judge William H. Sekule (United Republic of Tanzania) as permanent judge and judges Solomy Balungi Bossa (Uganda) and Mparany Rajohnson (Madagascar) as ad litem judges.

2. Principal activity of the Trial Chambers and the Appeals Chamber

(a) Trial Chamber I

19. The work before Trial Chamber I has been completed.

(b) Trial Chamber II

20. During the reporting period, Trial Chamber II delivered judgement in one case. One single-accused trial is awaiting closing arguments.

Judgement in *Bizimungu et al.* ("Government II")

21. On 30 September 2011, a Chamber composed of judges Khan, presiding, Muthoga and Short delivered judgement in the Government II case. The trial involved four Rwandan ministers during the genocide: Casimir Bizimungu, Justin Mugenzi, Prosper Mugiraneza and Jérôme-Clément Bicamumpaka. Mugenzi and Mugiraneza were convicted of conspiracy to commit genocide and direct and public incitement to commit genocide, and each was sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment. Bizimungu and Bicamumpaka were acquitted on all counts in the indictment, and their immediate release was ordered. In the course of the trial, the Chamber heard 171 witnesses over 404 trial days.

Ongoing trial in *Ngirabatware*

22. The case of Augustin Ngirabatware (former Minister of Planning) is being heard by a Chamber composed of judges Sekule, presiding, Bossa and Rajohnson. The case is currently in prosecution rebuttal stage, and the last prosecution rebuttal witness is expected to be heard on 2 July 2012. The Chamber has fixed 23 and 24 July for final arguments. The judgement is expected by the end of 2012.

(c) Trial Chamber III

23. During this reporting period, Trial Chamber III rendered four judgements. The work before this Trial Chamber is now complete.

Judgement in *Ndahimana*

24. On 17 November 2011, a Chamber composed of judges Arrey, presiding, Tuzmukhamedov and Akay delivered judgement in the case of Grégoire Ndahimana, a former *bourgmestre* of Kivumu commune in Kibuye prefecture. The Chamber sentenced Ndahimana to imprisonment for 15 years after finding him guilty of genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity. During the course of the proceedings, the Chamber heard 45 witnesses and issued 14 written decisions.

Judgement in *Karemera et al.*

25. On 21 December 2011, a Chamber composed of judges Byron, presiding, Kam and Joensen delivered judgement in the *Karemera et al.* case. The case involved

Édouard Karemera, former Vice-President of the National Republican Movement for Democracy and Development (MRND) and Minister of the Interior of the Interim Government, and Matthieu Ngirumpatse, former National Party Chairman of MRND and Chairman of its Executive Bureau. Karemera and Ngirumpatse were convicted of genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, extermination, rape and sexual assault as crimes against humanity, and murder as causing violence to life, health and physical or mental well-being as serious violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II thereto. Each was sentenced to life imprisonment. The Chamber heard 153 witnesses over 374 trial days.

Judgement in *Nzabonimana*

26. On 31 May 2012, a Chamber composed of judges Bossa, presiding, Tuzmukhamedov and Rajohnson delivered judgement in the case against Callixte Nzabonimana, a former Minister of Youth. Nzabonimana was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment for the crimes of genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity. In the course of the trial, the Chamber heard 59 witnesses over 87 trial days.

Judgement in *Nizeyimana*

27. The Chamber composed of judges Muthoga, presiding, Park and Fremr delivered its judgement in the case of Captain Ildephonse Nizeyimana on 19 June 2012. The accused was the former second-in-command in charge of intelligence and military operations at the *École des sous-officiers* during 1994. He was sentenced to life imprisonment after being found guilty of genocide, extermination and murder as crimes against humanity and of murder as a serious violation of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II thereto. During the trial, the Chamber heard 84 witnesses over a period of 54 trial days.

Referral applications and other matters

28. On 22 February 2012, a referral chamber composed of judges Khan, presiding, Joensen and Kam granted the Prosecutor's application for referral of the case of the fugitive accused Fulgence Kayishema to Rwanda for trial. On 26 March 2012, a referral chamber composed of judges Joensen, presiding, Muthoga and Kam referred the case of the fugitive accused Charles Sikubwabo to Rwanda for trial. On 8 May 2012, a referral chamber composed of judges Joensen, presiding, Arrey and Park referred the case of the fugitive accused Ladislas Ntaganzwa to Rwanda for trial. In June 2012, referral chambers composed of judges Joensen, presiding, Arrey and Kam granted referral applications in the cases of fugitive accused Charles Ryandikayo (20 June), Aloys Ndimbati (25 June) and Phénéas Munyarugarama (28 June) to Rwanda for trial.

29. On 6 June 2012, a chamber composed of judges Muthoga, presiding, Park and Kam referred the case of Bernard Munyagishari to the courts of Rwanda for trial. This decision is under appeal.

30. On 18 June 2012, a trial chamber composed of judges Arrey, presiding, Park and Kam denied the claim for financial and other compensation, including compelling relocation, which had been filed by Protais Zigiranyirazo, a former

accused. The application, filed on 24 February 2012, sought $1,006,550 in compensation for Zigiranyirazo's eight and one-half year detention before his eventual acquittal by the Appeals Chamber and an order pursuant to article 28 of the statute of the International Tribunal compelling his relocation to Belgium.

31. Throughout the reporting period, hearings on the preservation of evidence pursuant to rule 71 bis took place in the cases against Félicien Kabuga, Protais Mpiranya and Augustin Bizimana. Judges Joensen, Arrey and Kam, respectively, were the single judges who heard testimony on the preservation of evidence in the three cases. In all three cases the prosecution and duty counsel for the defence presented evidence for preservation. All depositions were concluded by June 2012.

(d) Appeals Chamber

32. During the reporting period, the Appeals Chamber was seized of appeals from 13 judgements concerning 26 persons, 3 referral appeals, 3 interlocutory appeals and 12 motions for review or reconsideration. The Appeals Chamber rendered 7 judgements, 1 referral appeal decision, 3 interlocutory appeal decisions, 9 decisions related to review or reconsideration and 139 pre-appeal orders and decisions.

Appeal judgements: Munyakazi, Setako, Ntawukulilyayo, Bagosora and Nsengiyumva, Ntabakuze, Kanyarukiga, Hategekimana

33. Trial Chamber I convicted Yussuf Munyakazi, a former landowner and farmer, of genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity on 30 June 2010 and sentenced him to 25 years of imprisonment. The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals on 28 March 2011. In its judgement of 28 September 2011, the Appeals Chamber affirmed Munyakazi's convictions and sentence.

34. Ephrem Setako, a former senior official of the Ministry of Defence, was convicted on 25 February 2010 by Trial Chamber I of genocide, extermination as a crime against humanity and serious violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II thereto. Setako was sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment. The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals on 29 March 2011. In its judgement of 28 September 2011, the Appeals Chamber affirmed Setako's convictions, entered an additional conviction for serious violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II thereto and affirmed the sentence.

35. On 3 August 2010, Trial Chamber III convicted Dominique Ntawukulilyayo, a former *sous-préfet*, of genocide and sentenced him to imprisonment for 25 years. The Appeals Chamber heard Ntawukulilyayo's appeal on 26 September 2011. On 14 December 2011, the Appeals Chamber reversed Ntawukulilyayo's conviction for ordering genocide while affirming his conviction for aiding and abetting genocide. The Appeals Chamber set aside Ntawukulilyayo's sentence and imposed a new sentence of 20 years of imprisonment.

36. From 30 March through 1 April 2011, the Appeals Chamber heard appeals brought by Théoneste Bagosora, the former *directeur de cabinet* in the Ministry of Defence, and Anatole Nsengiyumva, the former Commander of the Gisenyi Operational Sector, with regard to the trial judgement rendered by Trial Chamber I on 18 December 2008. The Appeals Chamber rendered its judgement on

14 December 2011. It affirmed Bagosora's convictions for genocide, murder, extermination, persecution, rape and other inhumane acts as crimes against humanity and as serious violations of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II thereto. The Appeals Chamber reversed his convictions for certain killings and set aside the finding that he was responsible for ordering certain crimes, finding him liable as a superior instead. In addition, the Appeals Chamber reversed a number of Bagosora's convictions for murder and for other inhumane acts as crimes against humanity. As a consequence, the Appeals Chamber set aside Bagosora's sentence of life imprisonment and imposed a sentence of 35 years of imprisonment. In respect of Anatole Nsengiyumva, the Appeals Chamber affirmed his convictions for genocide, extermination and persecution as crimes against humanity, and as serious violations of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II thereto in relation to certain killings. The Appeals Chamber reversed his convictions for other killings as well as his convictions for murder as a crime against humanity. In addition, the Appeals Chamber set aside the finding that Nsengiyumva was responsible for ordering certain killings, finding him liable as a superior instead. The Appeals Chamber considered that the reversal of nearly all of Nsengiyumva's convictions called for a revision of his life sentence and entered a new sentence of 15 years of imprisonment.

37. Aloys Ntabakuze, the former commander of a para-commando battalion of the Rwandan army at Kanombe Camp in Kigali, appealed the trial judgement rendered by Trial Chamber I on 18 December 2008. Because Ntabakuze's counsel was unavailable for the scheduled hearing of his appeal from 30 March through 1 April 2011, the Appeals Chamber heard his appeal on 27 September 2011. In its judgement of 8 May 2012, the Appeals Chamber affirmed his convictions for genocide, extermination and persecution as crimes against humanity and his conviction for violence to life as a serious violation of article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions and of Additional Protocol II thereto. The Appeals Chamber reversed Ntabakuze's convictions for preventing refugees from seeking sanctuary and for certain killings. The Appeals Chamber also reversed his convictions for murder as a crime against humanity and set aside the finding that he was responsible for the commission of crimes by militiamen. The Appeals Chamber considered that the reversal of some of Ntabakuze's convictions called for a revision of his life sentence and entered a new sentence of 35 years of imprisonment.

38. Gaspard Kanyarukiga, a former businessman, was convicted on 1 November 2010 by Trial Chamber II of genocide and extermination as a crime against humanity. He was sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment. The Appeals Chamber heard the parties' appeals on 14 December 2011. In its judgement of 8 May 2012, the Appeals Chamber affirmed Kanyarukiga's convictions and sentence.

39. On 6 December 2010, Trial Chamber II convicted Ildephonse Hategekimana, the former commander of the Ngoma Military Camp in Butare, of genocide, murder and rape as crimes against humanity and sentenced him to life imprisonment. After hearing the parties on 15 December 2011, the Appeals Chamber rendered its judgement on 8 May 2012, dismissing Hategekimana's appeal and affirming his sentence.

Further appeals from judgement

40. Deliberations are now in progress in the *Gatete* case in which the Appeals Chamber heard arguments in May 2012. The Appeals Chamber is also seized of appeals in the cases of *Ndindiliyimana et al.*, *Nyiramasuhuko et al.*, *Mugenzi and Mugiraneza*, *Ndahimana*, *Karemera and Ngirumpatse*, *Nzabonimana and Nizeyimana*. The briefing is in progress, and the cases are being prepared for hearings.

D. Activities of the Office of the Prosecutor

41. The Office of the Prosecutor has completed the hearing stage of all trials at first instance and judgement is awaited in the last case of Augustin Ngirabatware before Trial Chamber II. No further prosecutions are expected before the Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The applications by the Prosecutor for transfer of cases to Rwanda under rule 11 bis have succeeded with respect to two indictees in custody (Jean Uwinkindi and Bernard Munyagishari) and six fugitives (Fulgence Kayishema, Charles Sikubwabo, Ladislas Ntaganzwa, Charles Ryandikayo, Aloys Ndimbati and Phénéas Munyarugarama). This leaves the cases of the three top level fugitives (Félicien Kabuga, Protais Mpiranya and Augustin Bizimana) earmarked for trial before the International Residual Mechanism.

42. The Prosecutor has also completed rule 71 bis evidence preservation proceedings against the three top level fugitives and the files in these cases are ready for prosecution by the Residual Mechanism upon their arrest. The Prosecutor has additionally completed the preparation of the case files for all of the other fugitives earmarked for transfer to national jurisdictions. Pursuant to the orders for their transfer to Rwanda, the Office of the Prosecutor has handed over the completed dossiers in order to facilitate their early indictment, trial and judgement before the Rwandan High Court.

43. Further to the above-mentioned transfers, the Prosecutor has appointed a monitor for the case of Jean Uwinkindi, who is currently on trial before the High Court in Rwanda. Additional monitoring arrangements will be made in respect of the other transferred cases as they come up for trial in Rwanda. The Prosecutor also continued to monitor the two cases referred to France for trial in 2007 (*Munyeshyaka* and *Bucyibaruta*).

44. The Office of the Prosecutor has intensified efforts to track the remaining fugitives and in this regard has sought support from regional organizations in eastern and southern Africa. Active consultations with INTERPOL and with Member States elsewhere have also assisted in narrowing the search for the three fugitives, although cooperation with some Member States, in particular Zimbabwe and Kenya, continues to be slow. In the meantime, cooperation with Rwanda with regard to tracking of fugitives has intensified.

45. In addition, during the reporting period, 12 appeals in 8 cases were brought to completion and 29 other appeals in 9 other cases remain in active litigation. With the completion of trials at first instance, the Prosecution's core focus shifted to the completion of appeals, the tracking of fugitives and the provision of assistance to national prosecuting authorities.

46. Pursuant to the appointment of the three principals of the International Residual Mechanism early in 2012, preparations for the establishment of the various structures and engagement of Mechanism staff accelerated, and modalities for a smooth transition to the Arusha branch of the Mechanism have been put in place. Significant progress has also been made in the archiving of the Prosecutor's evidentiary holdings and records for transfer to the Mechanism upon its inception. The demand for provision of assistance to national prosecuting authorities in respect of cases being investigated or prosecuted by them also continued to grow.

E. Activities of the Registry

1. Office of the Registrar

47. The Office of the Registrar continued to act both as the channel for communication between the organs of the Tribunal and its diplomatic arm. As such, the Office maintained high-level diplomatic contacts with Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. During the reporting period, the Office transmitted more than 309 notes verbales and other correspondence related to the operations of the Tribunal, including, in particular, correspondence to secure support and cooperation from Member States with respect to ongoing trials. The Registry dealt with an increased number of inquiries and requests for legal assistance from national jurisdictions.

48. Rwanda continued to cooperate with the Tribunal by facilitating the flow of witnesses from Kigali to Arusha and by providing relevant documents for use in trial proceedings.

49. The Office of the Registrar emphasized the historic importance of a successful transition to the Residual Mechanism, particularly the key functions: enforcement of sentences; witness protection and support; archives; the Tracking Unit; and maintaining the capacity of the Tribunal to carry out its own activities and to complete the remaining trials and appeals. The Office continues to provide all assistance required to ensure the timely commencement of these operations and the successful discharge of the mandate of the Mechanism.

50. On 27 July 2011, the Tribunal transferred one convicted person (Emmanuel Rukundo) to Mali to serve the remainder of his sentence and it will transfer a further four (Yusuf Munyakazi, Théoneste Bagosora, Tharcisse Renzaho and Dominique Ntawukulilyayo) on 1 July 2012. Seven convicted persons were transferred to Benin to serve the remainder of their sentences during the reporting period (Siméon Nchamihigo, Ephrem Setako and Simon Bikindi on 20 March 2012 and Aloys Ntabakuze, Ildephonse Hategekimana, Gaspard Kanyarukiga and Callixte Kalimanzira on 29 June 2012).

51. The President and Registrar continue to deploy all efforts to find host countries for the five acquitted persons and three persons who have completed their sentences who remain in the safe houses in Arusha under the protection of the Tribunal. In light of the imminent closure of the Tribunal, the insufficient level of voluntary Member State cooperation and the human rights implications of the delayed relocation of acquitted persons, the Tribunal, even given the assistance provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), continues to call for the help of Member States in finding a sustainable solution to this issue.

52. The External Relations and Strategic Planning Section was successful in raising voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, enabling the Tribunal to carry out its capacity-building and outreach activities. Those activities form an important part of the Tribunal's mandate and legacy and are a vital tool for bridging the information gap between the Tribunal and the people of Rwanda at the grass-roots level.

53. The Tribunal welcomed a total number of 3,076 visitors, including high-level United Nations and Government officials and academics and representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations as well as the general public. During the reporting period, in spite of the downsizing, the Tribunal attracted a higher number of visitors than previously. In addition, more than 500,000 individuals visited the Tribunal's website over the same period.

54. The Information and Documentation Centre in Kigali (Umusanzu) and 10 additional provincial information centres located across Rwanda continue to play a key role in information dissemination, improved communications and access to the jurisprudence of the Tribunal and other legal materials. The centres are visited daily by members of the Rwandan judiciary, students, researchers and the public who are provided with informative materials and with access to briefings, training, library services, video screenings and the Internet. During the reporting period, the information centre in Kigali received approximately 38,000 visitors, while the provincial information centres received approximately 20,000 visitors.

55. During the reporting period, the Tribunal engaged in several outreach activities. The Tribunal continued to follow up on its youth sensitization and genocide prevention project in the Great Lakes Region by distributing a total of 20,000 copies of its cartoon books in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The books, distributed through the United Nations offices, were sent to primary and secondary schools. The Tribunal also organized exhibitions and presented talks on its works in Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Kigali.

56. Additionally, the Tribunal, in collaboration with the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide, conducted an exhibition in commemoration of the eighteenth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide from 4 to 6 April 2012. From February to March 2012, with funds from the Department of Public Information in New York, awareness-raising programmes for lessons learned from the genocide of 1994 were successfully conducted in 13 major secondary schools throughout Rwanda. Approximately 8,300 students attended. From 7 to 20 May, with the same funding, the programme was extended to five major prisons in different parts of the country. The programme was attended by 34,200 inmates and officials.

57. The Tribunal undertook capacity-building activities for about 100 legal professionals in Rwanda, with the aim of further strengthening the justice sector in areas such as investigation, witness protection, evidence and information management and oral and written advocacy skills. Those activities were intended, inter alia, to equip the Rwandan judiciary with the necessary tools to take up cases that may be referred from the Tribunal. Some examples of the many initiatives that the Tribunal conducted are online legal research training for law students and two related training programmes for members of the Rwandan Military Court. In August 2011, a training workshop was organized for the judges of the Rwanda Military Tribunal. Thirteen judges, including the Vice-President of the Court, engaged in the exercise. In February 2012, 60 students from the Law Faculty of Kigali Independent

University attended a workshop at the Tribunal's Information and Documentation Centre in Kigali. In March 2012, 15 senior prosecutors from the National Public Prosecution Authority of Rwanda attended a workshop on legal research methodology conducted by the staff of the External Relations and Strategic Planning Section at the Rwandan Supreme Court in Kigali.

58. The communication cluster of the Section has ensured the wide dissemination of information about the Tribunal's activities through press meetings, newsletters and press releases as well as through the use of its website and films and information brochures in English, French and Kinyarwanda. The cluster has also processed numerous local and international media enquiries and broadcast trial proceedings by satellite. It launched exhibitions on the work of the Tribunal in several cities in East Africa, including Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Kampala and Kigali. At these events, film screenings, talks and discussions on the work of the Tribunal were held. Open lines of communication are maintained with universities and other educational institutions in the region.

59. With the completion strategy nearing its end, voluntary contributions to the Tribunal have declined. The gender focal point has continued to reach out to Member States in order to replenish the depleted Trust Fund for the Support Programme for Witnesses. The Spanish Government once again made a voluntary contribution to the programme. The programme continued to provide physical and psychological care to witnesses residing in Rwanda and, in particular, antiretroviral drugs for those living with HIV/AIDS. The programme continues to be implemented through the Witnesses and Victims Support Section's dedicated clinic located in Kigali.

60. The internship programme welcomed 215 interns to the Tribunal during the reporting period: 180 interns were assigned to the Chambers and the Office of the Prosecutor while the rest were assigned to non-legal sections of the Tribunal. In addition, 14 pro bono legal researchers provided expert legal support to the Chambers and the Office of the Prosecutor. As a result of budgetary constraints, the legal researchers programme previously funded by the Tribunal did not host any candidates during the reporting period. External funding for the programme is being sought. The two programmes continue to provide support to the Tribunal in implementing its completion strategy, especially in the face of the ongoing staff downsizing exercise.

61. The Legal Services and Internship Programme Unit also continued to play an important legal advisory role for issues pertaining to the proper implementation and interpretation of United Nations administrative rules, cases relating to the immunities and privileges of staff regarding civil and criminal cases and interpreting and reviewing agreements. During the reporting period, the Unit mediated and settled 13 cases between staff members and local law enforcement, as well as cases involving domestic employees.

2. Judicial and Legal Services Division

62. The Court Management Section provided support services to the judicial processes of the Tribunal, including provisions of real-time transcripts of proceedings, support for site visits to Rwanda, certification of witness statements, depositions and video-link hearings from various countries. As part of its role in the capacity-building and outreach activities of the Tribunal, the Section continued to

conduct training sessions for representatives of a number of African countries, including demonstrations of the Tribunal's system for the instantaneous production of transcripts and the management of judicial records. As a major component of the Tribunal's preparations for the transition to the Residual Mechanism, the Section contributed to drafting the policies and guidelines for the filing of documents as well as management of records and archives to be transferred to the Mechanism. It also continued its work on the preparation of judicial records for transfer to the Mechanism and the redaction of the audiovisual recordings of the Tribunal's proceedings.

63. The Defence Counsel and Detention Management Section continued to provide essential and improved support services to detainees, suspects, prisoners, Counsel, the Registry, the Chambers and the Prosecutor on all stages of procedure. Much of this work covered appeals and pretrial processes (deposition hearings and referrals).

64. During the reporting period, judgements were rendered with respect to 17 detainees by the Trial and Appeals Chambers of the Tribunal. Two detainees were released upon acquittal and one was released upon being granted early release. Over the same period, the United Nations Detention Facility accommodated 13 detained witnesses who were called to testify in various trials.

65. As of 30 June 2012, a total of 19 inmates were detained at the Detention Facility (17 awaiting appeal judgements, 1 pending appeal of referral and 1 on trial).

66. During the reporting period, the Witness and Victims Support Section ensured the timely availability of 96 witnesses from 15 countries. Threat assessments were conducted for some witnesses. In accordance with protective measures ordered by the Chambers, transcripts were redacted to expunge identifying information concerning witnesses or their family members prior to the transcripts being made public. The Section has intensified its post-trial monitoring activities in the countries of residence of witnesses who appeared before the Tribunal. Several witnesses residing in Rwanda received assistance in order to improve their medical and psychological rehabilitation. The Section enjoyed the cooperation of several Member States, which issued temporary travel documents enabling witnesses to travel to and from Arusha, as well as the cooperation of the offices of UNHCR in a number of African countries, which assisted in facilitating the movement and protection of witnesses. Some Member States also provided assistance in escorting witnesses. On the basis of the Section's recommendations, the Trial Chambers ordered the lifting of protective measures no longer necessary in relation to eight deceased single witnesses. The review of witness protection orders is still ongoing. The Section is at the final stage of preparation for the handing over of witness-related materials (electronic database, hard-copy individual files and case binders) to the Residual Mechanism in relation to 57 completed cases before the Tribunal.

67. The Language Services Section provided interpretation, translation and reproduction services to the Chambers, the parties and the Registry. During the reporting period, 11 trial judgements, 6 appeals judgements, a significant number of decisions and other documents such as pretrial briefs, closings briefs and motions were received for translation. This included one judgement totalling more than 2,700 pages. The roster of translators, interpreters and proofreaders established with a view to preempting any potential disruption of trials was kept in place. In addition, documents for translation were outsourced and freelance revisers were recruited to alleviate the heavy workload of the Section.

68. The Legal Library and Reference Unit continues to play a key role in delivering legal materials needed to support the judicial process and to respond to the increasing demand from outside for access to the resources and jurisprudence of the Tribunal. In addition, the Legal Library released and distributed the 2011 versions of the Tribunal's Basic Documents and Case Law DVD and CD-ROM worldwide, most particularly in Rwanda. The Legal Library is currently updating the CD/DVD/website with 2012 documents.

69. In the context of the legacy of the Tribunal and the transition to the Residual Mechanism, the Legal Library has compiled a special bibliography containing most of the relevant literature on the work of the Tribunal, which will serve as a reference tool for researchers and future generations.

70. The Legal Library and Reference Unit set up two libraries in the Tribunal's prison quarters in Benin and Mali. The libraries are intended to provide opportunities for self-empowerment and education for the prisoners.

3. Division of Administrative Support Services

71. The process of downsizing continued to pose major challenges to the operations of the Tribunal. The Division of Administration Support Services continued to respond to those challenges in a proactive and flexible manner.

72. The staff members of the Tribunal come from 68 countries. As at 30 June 2012, the Tribunal had 524 staff members against an authorized complement of 562 posts, with 38 vacant posts — a 7 per cent vacancy rate. The gender ratio of staff is 60 per cent male and 40 per cent female.

73. During the downsizing phase, attracting and retaining competent staff continues to pose a major challenge The short duration of contracts issued to current staff members has contributed to increased uncertainty and has continued to have a negative impact on productivity. In addition, it has proven difficult to attract qualified candidates for short-term contracts. It should be noted that the current limitations to temporary appointments has the potential of impacting negatively on the completion strategy. In parallel, the consultative staff retention exercise continues to be conducted in order to determine the number and composition of staff to be retained until the completion of the Tribunal's work. The Tribunal's management is consulting with the Office of Human Resources Management with the aim of instituting flexibility measures to address these recruitment and staffing concerns.

74. The Career Resource Centre is still organizing career development workshops and training programmes to support staff in their professional aspirations. The Human Resources Planning Section continues to actively assist staff leaving the Tribunal. As part of its completion strategy and archiving measures to be undertaken by the Tribunal, a workshop on the management and disposal of records for senior management and their focal points within the Tribunal was held in May 2012. Other training programmes and workshops include the justice rapid response certification workshop and a training programme on résumé writing and interviewing skills, both held in April 2012. A senior management retreat was held in March 2012 with the primary aim of re-evaluating the measures and steps necessary to successfully implement the completion strategy, namely the completion of the remaining judicial work of the Tribunal, a review of the ongoing downsizing processes and staff

separations and the strategies and policies related to the transition to the Residual Mechanism and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1966 (2010). The Section also continues to provide advice to staff members and judges on their final entitlements and on the implications of new contractual arrangements and staff rules.

75. With regard to the assisting with the opening of the Arusha branch of the Residual Mechanism, the Section is working very closely with counterparts at the Tribunal to recruit candidates for posts at the Mechanism and several offers of appointment have already been sent in anticipation of its launch on 1 July 2012.

76. The Security and Safety Section continued to support the actions of the Tribunal to ensure the safety and security of its staff, premises, assets and operations through implementation of the policies of the United Nations security management system. Close collaboration was promoted with the authorities of the host Government in Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Section continued to monitor security trends and to ensure appropriate measures against threats existing in the operating environment. The Section contributed to planning activities for the commencement of the Residual Mechanism in accordance with arrangements agreed upon between the Tribunal and the Mechanism.

77. The Information Technology Services Section improved its services to cope with the effects associated with the Tribunal's completion strategy. New infrastructure and office systems were set up for the Arusha branch of the Mechanism. A new information technology service centre has been created for improved service delivery and there has been improved collaboration among all o. the organs with a mutual objective of the provision of centralized information technology services. A court management system funded by the Government of Germany was installed at the Rwandan High Court, and the Tribunal continued to provide video teleconference services to other tribunals. The Electronic Data Processing Unit maintains the information and technology infrastructure of the Tribunal, supporting and meeting the computing needs of various business units. During the reporting period, a number of business process systems were brought online that added efficiency and effectiveness to standard administrative procedures throughout the Tribunal. The Audiovisual Unit provides video coverage of all court proceedings and videoconferencing services for remote witness testimonies and meetings. The Telecommunications Unit supports the operation and maintenance of the telephone network, two satellite earth stations, rural telephone links and two 2-way radio networks as well as the telephone billing and switchboard operator services.

78. The Health Services Unit provided curative, preventive and trauma counselling support and performed medico-administrative duties for judges and staff members and their dependants, as well as for detainees, witnesses and victims. The Unit monitored clients' health through four subunits: two in Kigali and two in Arusha. In Kigali, witnesses received a full medical check-up and medical care before transfer to Arusha for testimony. In Arusha, the United Nations Detention Facility subunit cared for detainees, prisoners and prisoner-witnesses. At the headquarters clinic, clients received medicines, laboratory services and immunizations free of charge. HIV awareness, voluntary counselling and testing, condom distribution, initiation of antiretroviral treatment and follow-up for positive cases continue to be important activities at the headquarters clinic.

79. The Career Development and Counselling Unit provides a spectrum of services covering staff training and coaching, counselling and welfare services. The strategic direction has been towards providing support to staff and families in the transition related to downsizing, relocation and outplacement. These activities included supervisory skills training for managers, training on résumé writing, interview skills, using Inspira, language and computer skills training, interview coaching sessions and stress counselling and change management coaching sessions, as well as the provision of a Fitness Centre and Career Resource Centre and psychosocial support for staff, especially during check-in and check-out processes.

80. In the area of resources management, the Budget and Finance Section continued to provide expertise on proper planning, control and monitoring of the use of available resources and timely and reliable services to staff members and clients of the Tribunal.

81. The General Services Section and the Procurement Section provided vital support to the Tribunal. To ensure more effective support, procurement has now been brought under the control of the Chief of the General Services Support Section. In line with the completion strategy, the Building Management Services continued to relocate surplus accommodation containers from Kigali to Arusha for use as offices, thus allowing for the return of some regular rental space to the landlord. The unit has also been instrumental in the relocation of the Budget and Finance and the Human Resources Planning Sections to make way for the offices of the Residual Mechanism. With the introduction of the Galileo Inventory Management System, Asset Management Services has improved the processes for receiving and inspecting goods purchased by the Tribunal. The unit has also accelerated the disposal of old and obsolete property. The warehouse facility at the United Nations Detention Facility has served as a central point for commercial disposal of written-off assets. In line with the completion strategy, the Transport Services Unit has outsourced its vehicle maintenance and repairs services. In Kigali, it has been exploring the use of fuel cards as a means of streamlining fuel usage. The Central Registry/Mail/Pouch and Archives Services continued to provide services to the Tribunal. The Central Archives Facility continued archiving records generated by sections/units of the Division and scanning and entering metadata into the Tower Records Information Management database. A functional archiving structure was established for the records of the Division of Administrative Support Services in Kigali. The Procurement Section continued to ensure that the goods and services required by the Tribunal were provided on time and within budget. It also worked closely with units such as the Transport Services Unit and Building Management Services to outsource services where possible. The Section also continues to undertake the commercial disposal of the Tribunal's furniture, vehicles and equipment.

III. Conclusion and recommendations

82. In the past year the Tribunal has made significant achievements towards the achievement of the completion strategy in the face of a very high workload: five trial judgements representing nine accused were delivered during this time. At the trial level, delivery of the judgement in the final remaining case is expected by the end of 2012. The reporting period has also marked a significant shift in the Tribunal's focus with respect to both judicial and administrative activities. In

December 2011, as projected, the Tribunal completed its final multi-accused trial and the Appeals Chamber upheld the decision to refer the first Tribunal case to Rwanda for trial. Since then, the focus on referrals has been significant — a further six cases of fugitives accused have been referred to Rwanda, and the case of the final accused in Tribunal custody was referred to Rwanda and is currently pending appeal.

83. State cooperation remains the cornerstone for the ability of the Tribunal to complete its mandate. The Tribunal appreciates the continued trust and support of Member States and it has continued to work in close cooperation with them on the arrest of the remaining fugitives who have evaded justice for nearly two decades.

84. We reiterate the call for urgent action to help find host countries for the five acquitted persons who remain in a safe house in Arusha under the Tribunal's protection, as well as for the three convicted persons in Arusha who have completed serving their sentences. For some of those individuals, it has been several years since the confirmation of acquittal by the Appeals Chamber. The Tribunal remains concerned about the consequences of failing to fulfil its obligation to relocate acquitted persons and those who have completed their sentences. In this respect, the President and Registrar have redoubled their efforts to find States for relocation.

85. Finally, maintaining an adequate level of experienced staff remains a challenge for the Tribunal as an organization facing pending closure. The Tribunal appreciates all of the support and the efforts of Member States to address this situation, which have produced some improvements. It is, however, necessary to note that any further staff attrition could cause further delays.

86. In its final months, by working closely with the Residual Mechanism and by sharing best practices for closure with other international legal institutions, the Tribunal will continue to ensure that knowledge gained and lessons learned are put to good use in order to ensure a smooth transition. Our efforts at capacity-building and education for the region will remain strong, so that the Tribunal's impact will not only be challenging impunity, but also helping to improve the means to dispense justice for an entire region. As the Tribunal draws ever closer to the completion of its work and the Residual Mechanism opens its doors, it once again calls upon the international community to provide the support and resources necessary to achieve the timely completion of its mandate.

United Nations A/67/254

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 August 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 22 of the provisional agenda*
Globalization and interdependence

International migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In resolution 65/170, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of that resolution at its sixty-seventh session. The report was also to include organizational details of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, including possible themes.

Section I of the present report includes recent data on migratory patterns by origin and destination. The information allows for an assessment of the scope of international migration from developing countries, providing a critical underpinning to the debate on international migration and development. It describes recent levels of remittance transfers, including evidence on the costs of transferring remittances, and highlights recent activities to safeguard the rights of migrants and to combat irregular migration. It also discusses gaps in protecting and assisting migrants, including "stranded migrants" and people who move in the context of environmental change.

Section II synthesizes recent efforts of the United Nations system to enhance partnerships, coordination and cooperation, including through the Coordination Meeting on International Migration and the Global Migration Group. It contains a review of the support provided by the Group to Member States, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

* A/67/150.

12-45213 (E) 300812

Please recycle

Section III contains proposals for the organization of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be convened by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, in 2013, pursuant to resolution 63/225. It also contains a suggested structure and format for the event, as well as possible themes, preparatory activities and outcomes.

The report concludes with a set of concrete recommendations to enhance the benefits of migration and to reduce its negative impacts on development and recounts the steps that are being taken to prepare for the 2013 High-level Dialogue.

I. Introduction

1. International migration is a global phenomenon that is growing in scope, complexity and impact. Today, virtually all countries in the world are simultaneously countries of destination, origin and transit for international migrants. Traditional immigration patterns are complemented by new migratory flows, fuelled by changing economic, demographic, political and social conditions. Changing migration patterns affect the size and composition of immigrant populations as well as economies and societies in countries of origin and destination.

2. The rise in global mobility, the growing complexity of migratory patterns and the impact of such movements on development have all contributed to international migration becoming a priority for the international community. Prior to the first High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in 2006, international migration had been addressed as part of the United Nations development agenda at various international conferences and summits. Chapter X of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, remains one of the most comprehensive internationally agreed texts on international migration to date.

3. The 2006 High-level Dialogue was the first high-level meeting of the General Assembly exclusively devoted to migration. In May 2011, the President of the General Assembly organized an informal thematic debate on international migration and development, which provided an opportunity for Member States to exchange views and to take stock of their achievements in addressing the opportunities and challenges of international migration on the way to the 2013 High-level Dialogue (see A/65/944). The informal thematic debate provided further evidence that international migration could significantly contribute to poverty reduction, provided that partnerships and capacity development were strengthened and that the rights of migrants were safeguarded.

4. The 2013 High-level Dialogue comes at a crucial time. Seven years after the first High-level Dialogue and one year ahead of the special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the 1994 Programme of Action, the international community is well positioned to assess the impact of international migration policies and programmes, recommend concrete actions for follow-up and mainstream migration into the post-2015 development agenda.[1]

II. Recent developments on migration and development

A. Global migratory patterns and the role of the South

5. More people live outside their country of origin today than at any time in history. The global number of international migrants increased from 155 million in 1990 to 214 million in 2010. During that period, the number of international migrants in the more developed regions, or the North, grew by 46 million, or 56 per cent, while the immigrant population in the South increased by 13 million, or 18 per

[1] See "Realizing the future we want for all: report to the Secretary-General", United Nations system task team on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, 2012.

cent. By 2010, almost 60 per cent of all international migrants in the world were living in more developed countries, compared with 53 per cent in 1990.[2]

6. While reasonably accurate global estimates on international migrants by country of destination have been available for some time, documenting the origin of such migrants has been a major challenge. However, knowledge about the country of birth or citizenship of international migrants is critical for evidence-based migration policies. Information on the size and location of transnational communities, or diaspora, is therefore critical for countries of origin to mobilize their citizens abroad for development at home. Similarly, information on the origin of immigrants is essential for destination countries when designing immigration policies. At the aggregate level, information on the origin of international migrants allows for an assessment of the role of South-South movements in global migration.

7. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the support of partners, has produced a data set that estimates, for the first time, the global migrant population by origin.[3] The estimates indicate that the increase in the international migrant population in the North was primarily due to the growth in the number of migrants from the South. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants in the North who were born in the South (South-North migrants) almost doubled, from 40 million in 1990 to 74 million in 2010, accounting for 75 per cent of the increase in immigration in the North. The remaining 11 million persons who were added to the immigrant population in the North were born in the North (see table 1).

Table 1
Number of international migrants by origin and destination, 1990 and 2010

	Migrant stock (millions)			*Migrant stock (percentage)*		
Origin-destination	*1990*	*2010*	*Absolute change*	*1990*	*2010*	*Percentage change*
North-North	42.1	53.5	11.4	27.1	25.0	27.0
North-South	13.3	13.3	(0.1)	8.6	6.2	(0.4)
South-North	39.9	74.3	34.4	25.7	34.7	86.0
South-South	59.8	73.2	13.3	38.5	34.2	22.3
Total in North	**82.0**	**127.8**	**45.7**	**52.9**	**59.6**	**55.7**
Total in South	**73.2**	**86.4**	**13.3**	**47.1**	**40.4**	**18.1**
Total from North	**55.4**	**66.8**	**11.3**	**35.7**	**31.2**	**20.4**
Total from South	**99.8**	**147.4**	**47.7**	**64.3**	**68.8**	**47.8**
Grand total	**155.2**	**214.2**	**59.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**38.0**

[2] See *Trends in International Migrant Stock: the 2008 Revision* (United Nations publication, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008).

[3] See *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin* (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

8. As a result of such trends, the share of South-South migration in global migration fell from 39 per cent in 1990 to 34 per cent in 2010, with South-North migration overtaking South-South migration as the dominant migration corridor. In 2010, the number of South-South migrants was about 73 million, slightly fewer than the 74 million South-North migrants. The number of North-North migrants stood at 53 million in 2010, while North-South migrants numbered about 13 million.

9. Recent immigration data, compiled by the Population Division, confirm the growing contribution of migration from the South to migration in the North.[4] In Australia and New Zealand, the average annual share of foreign immigrants originating from less developed regions rose from 53 per cent in 1990-1999 to 59 per cent in 2000-2009. Likewise, Europe recorded an increase in the average annual share of foreign immigrants from the South from 36 per cent in 1990-1999 to 43 per cent in 2000-2009. In North America, however, the share of immigrants from developing countries in total immigration during both periods remained stable at around 84 per cent. The growth in migration from the South has generated significant flows of remittances in the opposite direction.

B. Remittance transfers: flows and costs

10. According to the World Bank, remittances to developing countries reached $372 billion in 2011, an increase of 12 per cent compared to 2010.[5] While remittance transfers recorded a brief decline in 2009 in the wake of the economic crisis, they recovered the following year and are projected to continue to increase during 2012-2014. China, India, Mexico and the Philippines were the main destination countries for remittances, each receiving more than $20 billion in 2011. As a percentage of gross domestic product, Lesotho, the Republic of Moldova, Samoa and Tajikistan were the largest remittance-receiving countries in the world.

11. Remittances are an important source of income for households in developing countries. A recent study of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, using data from 77 developing countries, found that a 10 per cent rise in remittances was estimated to lead to a 3.1 per cent reduction in the poverty headcount ratio.[6] The report concluded that, while the character of remittances as private funds should be respected, sustained policy interventions could encourage migrant families to use remittances for skills improvement and could promote the use of remittances as collateral for procuring small business loans and for other productive purposes.[7]

12. The international community has long emphasized the need to reduce the costs of transferring remittances (see General Assembly resolution 60/206). In July 2009, the members of the Group of Eight agreed to reduce global remittance costs from 10 to 5 per cent over five years (the "5 by 5" objective) and to make financial services more accessible to migrants and their families. The global average total costs of transferring remittances declined from 9.8 per cent in 2008 to 8.9 per cent

[4] See *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: the 2010 Revision* (United Nations publication, POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010).

[5] World Bank, "Migration and development brief 18" (Washington, D.C., 2012).

[6] Percentage of the population living on less than $1.25 per day.

[7] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Impact of Remittances on Poverty in Developing Countries* (Geneva, 2011).

in the third quarter of 2010, but rose again to 9.3 per cent during the third quarter of 2011.[8] Remittance transfer costs between developing countries exceed those between developed and developing countries, while the costs of transferring remittances between countries in sub-Saharan Africa were particularly high. Factors that contribute to the high costs of transferring remittances in some migration corridors include insufficient market competition, limited transparency, small transaction volumes and the use of informal channels. In the third quarter of 2011, commercial banks were found to charge the highest rates for transferring remittances (13.7 per cent), followed by money transfer operators (7.4 per cent) and post offices (7.2 per cent).

C. Migrant rights and migration policies

13. International migration, development and human rights are intrinsically interconnected. Respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants is essential for reaping the full benefits of international migration. Migrants in an irregular situation are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and abuse.

14. By June 2012, 83 States had ratified at least one of three international instruments related to migrant workers, namely, the 1949 International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised) (No. 97), the 1975 ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) (No. 143) and the 1990 United Nations International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Member States that had ratified at least one of the three international instruments hosted approximately 68 million international migrants in 2010, almost one third of the global migrant population.[2]

15. In 2010, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) coordinated a global ratification campaign to increase the number of States parties to the 1990 Migrant Workers Convention. The Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants repeated the call for ratification on the occasion of International Migrants Day in December 2011. At the 2010 Global Forum on Migration and Development, OHCHR issued a joint statement of the Global Migration Group expressing concern about the human rights of migrants in an irregular situation and called for an end to their criminalization. Participants at a round table organized in May 2011 by OHCHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) concluded that the detention of immigrants did not reduce irregular migration or deter the arrival of asylum seekers.

16. In June 2011, the International Labour Conference of ILO adopted the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (No. 189) and Recommendation No. 201. The Convention recognizes the economic and social value of domestic work, provides standards to improve working conditions and encourages the inclusion of domestic workers in labour and social protection

[8] World Bank, "Remittance prices worldwide", issue No. 3 (Washington, D.C., 2011).

mechanisms. The new standard represents an important step in advancing the rights of millions of women migrants who are employed as domestic workers.

17. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) promotes the ratification and implementation of the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers and has developed a checklist to assist Governments in formulating and implementing legislation to protect migrant domestic workers. UN-Women has assisted the Chairs of the Global Forum in highlighting the rights of migrant domestic workers.

18. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, which are the main pillars for the international protection of refugees, guide the activities of UNHCR. The 148 countries that had ratified either of the two international instruments by mid-2012 had collectively hosted over 6 million refugees, or 42 per cent of the global refugee population.[9] Excluding approximately 4.8 million Palestinians who fall under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the proportion of refugees hosted by States parties to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol increases to 61 per cent.[10]

19. Combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling is a key priority for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). As at June 2012, 149 countries had ratified the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, while 130 countries had ratified the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. UNODC focuses its activities on organizing information campaigns to prevent such heinous crimes, prosecuting their perpetrators and protecting their victims. In 2010, UNODC published a set of model laws against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants to assist States in adopting adequate legislation to implement the two Protocols.

20. Several regional conventions govern the recognition of academic qualifications. The conventions, overseen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have been signed in varying degrees. More generally, the lack of mutual recognition of diplomas, skills and qualifications is an important barrier to leveraging the benefits of migration.

21. In 2010, the World Health Assembly adopted at its sixty-third session a global code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel. The voluntary code promotes the ethical recruitment of migrant health workers and the strengthening of health systems in developing countries.

22. Migrant workers who are caught in situations of natural disasters, civil conflict or war are often unable to avail themselves of the protection and assistance of their country of citizenship, residence or transit. Cut off from their means of subsistence, they face economic hardship upon return. The plight of these "stranded migrants" may be particularly precarious for those who are undocumented. In 2011, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR launched a massive humanitarian response to assist and repatriate third country nationals who were affected by the crisis in Libya. The crisis revealed the absence, or the inadequate

[9] UNHCR, *2010 Statistical Yearbook: Tenth edition* (Geneva, 2011).

[10] See www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=253.

implementation, of existing norms, obligations or standards and thus highlighted the need for the international community to address the situation of "stranded migrants" more systematically.

D. Migration and environmental change

23. Migration in response to environmental or climate change may range from gradual movements as part of adaptive strategies to slow-onset environmental changes, to massive forced displacement in response to sudden-onset disasters. Environmental change is seldom the sole reason for people to move, but is often one of the reasons to migrate, alongside political, social, economic and demographic factors. Although exact figures are lacking, it is believed that most environment-related migration takes place over relatively short distances and only rarely across international borders. Those who cross international borders as a result of natural disasters are not considered refugees under international law and may lack international protection. Displacement due to natural disasters is often short term. Paradoxically, people who are unable to move away from affected areas, so-called "trapped" populations, may be most vulnerable in the context of environmental change.[11]

24. In the fall of 2011, the Global Migration Group called on Member States to recognize migration as an adaptation strategy to environmental risks and to make migration an option available to the most vulnerable. Furthermore, the Group recommended that immigration policies take into account environmental factors, that the least developed countries mainstream migration and mobility in national adaptation plans to climate change and that the relationship between climate change and migration be incorporated in poverty reduction strategies and national development strategies.[12]

25. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Member States agreed to include population and migration factors in their development strategies. They also resolved to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue, to recognize the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination and to avoid practices that might increase the vulnerability of international migrants (see General Assembly resolution 66/288).

E. Strengthening the global evidence base

26. Evidence-based policymaking and informed public debate require timely, reliable and easily accessible data and analysis. The decennial population census is the primary source for internationally comparable migration information. According to the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 228

[11] United Kingdom, Government Office for Science, Foresight, "Migration and global environmental change: future challenges and opportunities — final project report" (London, 2011).

[12] See www.globalmigrationgroup.org/uploads/english.pdf.

countries or areas have conducted or will conduct a population census during the 2010 round of population censuses, an increase of 21 countries over the previous round. Early indications suggest that the reporting on "country of birth", "country of citizenship" and "year or period of arrival" during the 2010 round of censuses, all of which are critical topics for the analysis of global migration trends, has improved little compared to the 2000 round of censuses. However, the number of census questions covering other migration topics, such as return migration, remittances and the integration of first and second generation immigrants, appears to be on the rise.

27. The Population Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, developed the United Nations Global Migration Database, which contains a comprehensive set of empirical tabulations on international migrants by country of enumeration, birth, citizenship, sex and age (www.unmigration.org). For the 2000 round of population censuses, the database covers over 90 per cent of immigrants in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Oceania, but only 70 per cent in Africa and Asia. During the 2010 census round, Africa and Asia continued to lag behind other major areas in reporting migration data.

28. In response to requests for information,[13] the Population Division prepared various new data sets on international migration and international migrants. Thus, the Division produced, for the first time, a set of estimates on international migrants by age and sex.[14] The Division also produced, for the first time, estimates of the international migrant stock by country of birth or citizenship.[3] Furthermore, the Division created a database on annual immigration and, where available, emigration and net migration flows by country of origin and destination for 43 countries.[4]

29. In 2005, the European Commission initiated migration profiles to improve the evidence base on international migration. To date, migration profiles are available for over 80 countries.[15] In 2011, the Global Forum annual meeting endorsed a proposal by the Global Migration Group to develop a common set of indicators for migration profiles. Those indicators, finalized by the Group in 2012, provide comparable estimates on population, international migration and development as well as information on the ratification of relevant legal instruments for all Member States.

30. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics, in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and Eurostat, collects data on internationally mobile tertiary students for issues of the *Global Education Digest*. The number of international students has grown from 0.8 million in 1975 to 3.4 million in 2009, fuelled in part by the internationalization of educational institutions. A recent UNESCO study indicated that member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had the highest outbound mobility ratio for tertiary students worldwide.[16] Unlike their counterparts from other parts of

[13] See, for example, resolution 2006/2 of the Commission on Population and Development on international migration and development and General Assembly resolutions 65/190 and 66/128.

[14] See *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex* (United Nations publication, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010).

[15] See www.gfmd.org/en/pfp/policy-tools/migration-profiles.

[16] UNESCO Institute for Statistics, "New patterns in student mobility in the Southern Africa Development Community", *UIS Information Bulletin*, No. 7 (February, 2012).

Africa pursuing tertiary education in Europe and North America, nearly half of all mobile students in the SADC region are choosing to study in South Africa.

III. Coherence, partnerships and coordination

A. Coordination Meeting on International Migration

31. The annual Coordination Meeting on International Migration, unique inter-agency mechanism open to Member States, non-governmental organizations and experts, has been organized by the Population Division since 2002. The Tenth Coordination Meeting, held in 2012, included an intergovernmental segment, which fostered interaction between the United Nations system and the Global Forum on Migration and Development; a coordination segment, which identified gaps and synergies in migration activities within the United Nations system; and an expert segment, at which recent migration research was presented.

32. The fact that there were 138 participants at the 2012 Coordination Meeting, compared with 45 at the 2002 Coordination Meeting, testifies to the growing interest in this inter-agency platform. By allowing for informal interaction among representatives of the Global Forum, Member States, civil society, researchers, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, the mechanism has played a critical role in sharing information, facilitating dialogue and strengthening coherence on migration.

B. Global Migration Group

33. The Global Migration Group was established by the Secretary-General prior to the 2006 High-level Dialogue. The Group is tasked with fostering coherence in the inter-agency response to the challenges and opportunities of migration. As at 2012, the Group includes 16 members, comprising 15 United Nations entities and IOM. It meets regularly at the working level, organizes technical meetings and issues joint statements. The Group is planning to launch a report on migration, youth and human rights in November 2012.

34. The working group of the Global Migration Group on mainstreaming, co-chaired by UNDP and IOM, is piloting a handbook on mainstreaming migration in national development planning in four countries. The working group has also created a repository of guidance documents and tools for United Nations country teams. The working group on data and research, co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and IOM, produced a common set of indicators for migration profiles and promotes the implementation of the report entitled *Migrants Count: Five Steps Toward Better Migration Data*.

35. Led by UNODC and UNESCO, with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Global Migration Group has initiated a review to take stock of its achievements and challenges since its creation in 2006. The goal of the review is to formulate recommendations for a robust inter-agency response to the opportunities and challenges of international migration post-2013.

36. The Global Migration Group is playing a major role in formulating a set of conclusions and recommendations on international migration and development by

the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders. That initiative, coordinated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and IOM, and assisted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will highlight the good practices and challenges encountered in undertaking migration and development activities since 2006.

C. Global Forum on Migration and Development

37. The Global Forum on Migration and Development is an informal, non-binding, voluntary and Government-led process open to all States Members and observers of the United Nations. It was launched during the 2006 High-level Dialogue and provides a platform for Governments to discuss the opportunities and challenges of international migration for development in practical and action-oriented ways. The Global Forum offers opportunities for cooperation and partnership between stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. The Chair in Office of the Global Forum submits an annual report to the United Nations through the Secretary-General.

38. The Secretary-General has addressed three of the five Global Forum meetings. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration and Development chairs annual sessions on the future of the Global Forum and participates in its Steering Committee and in meetings of the Friends of the Forum.

39. In 2010, the Global Forum initiated an assessment, the first part of which, led by the Chair-in-Office of the 2011 Global Forum, focused on the operating modalities, outcomes and follow-up to the Global Forum and on the relationship between the Global Forum, international organizations and civil society. The Chair-in-Office of the 2012 Global Forum leads the second part of the assessment on the future of the Global Forum, which will be presented at its forthcoming meeting.

40. From 2007 to 2011, the Global Forum organized 15 round tables, which produced a total of 199 recommendations (see table 2). Thirty-five of the recommendations were followed up by one Global Migration Group member, and 149 were followed by two or more. Members of the Group undertook 759 actions to follow up on the 199 recommendations. The average number of follow-up actions per recommendation increased from 2.4 in 2007 to 5.4 in 2010, while the number of recommendations not to be followed up fell from 5 in 2007 and 2008 to 3 in 2011. The figures confirm the key role of the Group in implementing Global Forum outcomes and, consequently, adding value, increasing the relevance and enhancing the impact of the Global Forum process.

Table 2
Follow-up of Global Forum recommendations by the Global Migration Group, 2007-2011

Year	Round table	Title	Number of Global Forum recommendations: Total	Follow-up by Global Migration Group members: By one Group member	By two or more Group members	No follow-up	Number of follow-up actions reported by the Global Migration Group	Ratio[a]
2007	I	Human capital development and labour mobility	9	3	5	1	21	2.3
	II	Remittances and other diaspora resources	19	7	11	1	47	2.5
	III	Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships	15	4	8	3	34	2.3
Total 2007			**43**	**14**	**24**	**5**	**102**	**2.4**
2008	I	Migration, development and human rights	13	3	9	1	39	3.0
	II	Optimizing development impacts of regular migration	9	4	5	0	20	2.2
	III	Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships	11	2	5	4	27	2.5
Total 2008			**33**	**9**	**19**	**5**	**86**	**2.6**
2009	I	Migration and development policies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals	19	2	17	0	87	4.6
	II	Migrant integration, reintegration and circulation	9	1	6	2	17	1.9
	III	Policy and institutional coherence and partnerships	10	1	9	0	44	4.4
Total 2009			**38**	**4**	**32**	**2**	**148**	**3.9**
2010	I	Partnerships for migration and human development	18	1	17	0	111	6.2
	II	Human mobility and human development	14	3	11	0	55	3.9
	III	Policy and institutional coherence	13	1	12	0	76	5.8
Total 2010			**45**	**5**	**40**	**0**	**242**	**5.4**
2011	I	Labour mobility and development	12	1	8	3	36	3.0
	II	Addressing irregular migration through coherent strategies	9	0	9	0	46	5.1
	III	Tools for evidence-based migration and development policies	19	2	17	0	99	5.2
Total 2011			**40**	**3**	**34**	**3**	**181**	**4.5**
Grand total			**199**	**35**	**149**	**15**	**759**	**3.8**

Note: For a detailed list of implementation actions by Global Migration Group entity, see www.unmigration.org.

[a] Number of follow-up activities reported by the Global Migration Group divided by the number of Global Forum recommendations.

D. Building national migration capacity

41. In follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue, the United Nations system has stepped up efforts to assist Member States in building institutional capacities to develop, formulate and implement evidence-based policies on international migration and development.

42. From 2009 to 2012, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in collaboration with the other regional commissions and the Population Division, carried out a project to strengthen national capacities to maximize the development benefits and to minimize the negative impact of international migration. Through workshops, studies, online data repositories and a toolkit, the project assisted developing countries in dealing with the multidimensional aspects of international migration. By convening two interregional meetings, the project also fostered partnership and cooperation between regions of origin and destination of international migrants.[17]

43. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), with the support of UNFPA, organized several training workshops to improve migration statistics in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The workshops allowed participants to exchange data on the size and composition of the foreign population in their countries. A clearing house on migration statistics, established by ECE, allows for a systematic exchange of migration statistics in the region. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) convened a dialogue in October 2011 to develop a regional position on international migration and development in preparation for the 2013 High-level Dialogue. ECA assists the Government of Mauritius in highlighting the contributions and challenges of international migration to development in Africa during the 2012 Global Forum.

44. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) supported the Scalabrini Migration Center in the Philippines in the development of the Migration Information System in Asia, a network of 16 Asian partners that collaborate in sharing migration data. ESCAP also worked with partner organizations in the preparation of a situation report on international migration in South and South-West Asia, providing an overview of the migration situation, including laws, policies and programmes in the region.[18]

45. In 2011, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) launched a project to strengthen local migration governance through online learning tools. UNITAR, in collaboration with IOM, UNFPA and the MacArthur Foundation, organizes seminars on migration and development to inform the diplomatic community in New York. The International Training Centre of ILO, based in Turin, Italy, hosts the Labour Migration Academy, a summer course organized in collaboration with ILO and other Global Migration Group partners.

46. The International Dialogue on Migration of IOM provides a forum for Member States and other stakeholders to exchange views and experiences and promote cooperation on international migration. In 2011, the Dialogue addressed the linkages between migration and environmental change and the relationship between

[17] ECLAC, "International migration from a regional and interregional perspective" (Santiago, 2012).

[18] ESCAP, *Situation Report on International Migration in South and South-West Asia* (ST/ESCAP/2622).

migration and the economy. The 2012 edition will focus on migrant workers who are trapped in crisis situations. IOM also organizes training courses on immigration law and policies for representatives of Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. In 2011, IOM and the Migration Policy Institute published *Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: a Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries* to encourage expatriate communities to engage in development efforts. Together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, IOM also developed training modules on the management of labour migration.[19]

IV. 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development: modalities, format and organization

47. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/225, decided to hold, within existing resources, a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013. The resolution also indicated that the Assembly would decide on the focus and modalities of the High-level Dialogue at its sixty-seventh session.

48. In its resolution 65/170, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-seventh session on the organizational details and possible themes of the High-level Dialogue. The recommendations provided below are submitted in response to that request and draw upon recent experiences in organizing high-level meetings of the Assembly. A detailed programme is also proposed (see annex).

A. Scope

49. The focus of the High-level Dialogue could be on identifying concrete measures that enhance the benefits of international migration, while reducing its costs, for countries of origin and destination and migrants alike. The General Assembly may wish to focus on identifying good practices and lessons learned since the 2006 High-level Dialogue, with a particular emphasis on national, regional and global policies and programmes that have leveraged the development benefits of international migration. In so doing, the Assembly may wish to take into account the experiences of the informal, State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development.

B. Duration and timing

50. Should the General Assembly wish to consider convening the High-level Dialogue over the course of two days before the general debate of its sixty-eighth session, as was the case for the 2006 High-level Dialogue, the following elements should be taken into consideration. Given that the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly is scheduled to start on Tuesday, 17 September 2013, that the first week the Assembly is reserved for the General Committee and the adoption of the agenda and that, in accordance with resolution 66/124, the High-level Meeting of the

[19] See www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/brochures_and_info_sheets/Training-Module.pdf.

General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities is scheduled for Monday, 23 September 2013, the High-level Dialogue could be held on 24 and 25 September 2013. This option would require a decision by the Assembly to postpone the opening of the general debate to Thursday, 26 September 2013. The decision needs a clear provision if Member States wish to continue, with additional cost, the general debate on Saturday, 28 September 2013 before it resumes on Monday, 30 September.

51. Alternatively, the Assembly may wish to hold the High-level Dialogue during the two days immediately following the conclusion of the general debate.

C. Structure and format of the plenary meetings

52. The General Assembly may wish to structure the High-level Meeting around four plenary meetings, with two plenary meetings held each day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., in order to accommodate statements by the maximum number of Member States.

53. In its resolution on the modalities of the High-level Dialogue, to be adopted during its sixty-seventh session, the General Assembly may wish to specify a time limit of interventions by Member States or groups of States as well as the number of speakers per plenary meeting.

54. Member States may wish to begin the High-level Dialogue with statements by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, and by an eminent person actively engaged in the field of international migration and a representative of a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, both to be selected by the President of the General Assembly.

55. At the conclusion of the afternoon plenary meeting on the second day, the chair of each interactive round-table meeting might present an oral summary of the deliberations of each of the four round tables, in the event that Member States decide to hold such round tables (see paras. 60-64 below). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General could be invited to make a brief statement summarizing the main achievements of the High-level Dialogue.

D. Participation in the plenary meetings

56. Participation in the plenary meetings could be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and thus be open to Member States and the Holy See, Palestine and the European Union in their capacities as observers, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the Assembly, including IOM.

57. In addition to Member States and observers, the Assembly could consider inviting the heads of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants might also be invited to participate in the plenary meetings.

58. For security reasons, and given the space limitations at Headquarters, the broad participation of civil society in the High-level Dialogue would not be possible. However, one representative of each of three categories (non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector) could be included in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings. The speakers would be different from those invited to speak at the opening of the Dialogue or in the round tables.

59. Furthermore, recognizing the importance of the contributions of civil society and other stakeholders, including the private sector, the Assembly may wish to hold informal interactive hearings with civil society groups prior to the High-level Dialogue (see paras. 69-73 below).

E. Structure, format and themes of the interactive round-table meetings

60. As was the case with the 2006 High-level Dialogue, the Assembly may wish to consider convening four interactive round-table meetings in parallel with the plenary meetings. It should be noted that holding parallel meetings would result in additional costs, as occurred in 2006 (see A/60/623 and A/C.5/60/23).

61. Should the Assembly decide to convene such interactive round tables, the first and second meetings could be held in the morning and afternoon of the first day of the High-level Dialogue, respectively. The third and fourth meetings could be held in the morning and afternoon of the second day of the High-level Dialogue, respectively.

62. Possible themes for the round-table meetings are set out below.

Round table I: Leveraging diaspora contributions for development

63. The round table could focus on the experiences gained since 2006 in leveraging remittances and other diaspora contributions for development, facilitating the portability of diplomas, skills and benefits, reducing the costs of migrating and of transferring remittances, and promoting the reintegration of returning migrants.

Round table II: Promoting legal and orderly migration, while protecting migrant rights

64. The round table could include a review of the progress made in promoting legal, safe and orderly migration, including temporary, circular and return migration for all skills levels. It could also include a review of the concrete measures to prevent and combat irregular migration in a systematic way. The relationship between migration policies and the protection of migrant rights would also be discussed in this context. Measures could also be considered to improve the response of the international community to the situation of "stranded migrants". The role of women, children and youth in migration and the impact of migration on families could also be reviewed.

Round table III: Mainstreaming migration into the development agenda

65. The focus of the round table would be on concrete experiences in mainstreaming migration into national development planning. The integration of

migration into the post-2015 United Nations development agenda could be a main focus, and measures to improve the evidence base for migration policymaking could also be discussed.

Round table IV: Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration at all levels

66. Discussions at the round table, could include concrete steps to promote coherence and cooperation among all stakeholders. The discussion could build on the experiences of Member States, international organizations and civil society in promoting coherence, cooperation and partnership on international migration and in maximizing development outcomes for migrants. The role of the United Nations and IOM in providing a coherent and robust inter-agency response to the challenges and opportunities of migration, including by supporting the Global Forum on Migration and Development and its outcomes, could also be considered. The results of the Global Forum assessment could be presented at the round table.

67. The chairs of the round tables could be designated by the President of the General Assembly, after consultation with the regional groups, from among the ministers attending the High-level Dialogue and with due regard for geographical and gender representation.

68. Summaries of the deliberations of the interactive round-table meetings could be presented orally by the chairs of the round tables at the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue.

F. Participation in the interactive round-table meetings

69. Participation of Member States in each of the round-table meetings could be subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

70. In addition, the General Assembly may wish to make specific provisions to allow for the participation in the round-table meetings of heads of entities of the United Nations system and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector.

71. The number of participants could be limited to 50 or fewer, with at least 4 representatives of entities of the United Nations system and 6 representatives of other relevant institutional stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector.

72. Each delegation could be requested to indicate its preference for participation in one of the four round tables to the chair of its respective regional group.

G. Preparatory activities

73. The General Assembly may wish to consider organizing informal interactive hearings with civil society organizations prior to the High-level Meeting, as was the case for the 2006 High-level Dialogue. The hearings could take place over the course of one full day and include two sequential segments. As in previous events of this type, the President of the General Assembly could preside over the informal

interactive hearings, and each segment could consist of presentations by invited participants from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and include an exchange of views with Member States.

74. The hearings could be open to accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, Member States and observers of the General Assembly.

75. The General Assembly may wish to entrust the President of the Assembly to determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organizatic the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector. The President of the General Assembly could be tasked with preparing a summary of the hearings prior to the High-level Dialogue.

76. In order to facilitate the participation in the hearings of non-governmental and civil society organizations from developing countries, the General Assembly may wish to urge Member States and others to make contributions to a trust fund set up specifically for this activity.

77. The General Assembly may wish to recommend that other preparatory activities, such as panel discussions or expert meetings, be organized with support from interested Member States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes or other institutional stakeholders.

H. Outcome

78. The outcome of the High-level Dialogue could be presented as a note, prepared by the President of the General Assembly, which would be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other relevant organizations. The note may include the summaries of the round-table discussions and be issued as a document of the Assembly.

79. Alternatively, the General Assembly may wish to consider a succinct action-oriented outcome document and entrust the President of the Assembly with producing a draft text in consultation with Member States based on their inputs and on inputs from the preparatory process, where relevant, and convene informal consultations at an appropriate date in order to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States prior to the High-level Dialogue.

V. Conclusions, recommendations and way forward

80. In the period 1990-2010, the number of international migrants increased by 59 million, or 39 per cent. Most of that increase, which occurred in the North, was driven by migration from the South. The increase in South-North migration has triggered a significant flow in remittances in the opposite direction. Member States should redouble their efforts to reduce the costs of transferring remittances and to enhance the benefits of remittances for development, bearing in mind that they are private financial flows.

81. The adoption of a new ILO instrument to defend the rights of domestic workers is an important milestone in protecting female migrant workers. However, millions of migrants continue to face discrimination, xenophobia and abuse. The 2013 High-level Dialogue presents an opportunity to accelerate the ratification and promote the implementation of international instruments related to international migration.

82. Without additional resources to collect baseline data, policy formulation and public debate on migration is bound to remain ill-informed. The international community should prioritize the dissemination of migration data from the 2010 census round, facilitate access to data generated by administrative records and consider funding a dedicated survey programme in countries that lack adequate migration data.

83. The increase in migration activities has prompted the need for enhanced coordination. The inter-agency Coordination Meeting on International Migration, organized by the Population Division, plays a critical role in exchanging migration information among stakeholders. The Global Migration Group has improved inter-agency cooperation on migration since 2006 and engages constructively with the Global Forum.

84. The Global Migration Group has launched a review to consider how the United Nations system and other key stakeholders can provide a robust and coherent support to Member States in responding to the opportunities and challenges presented by international migration and in promoting a wider implementation of relevant instruments and norms. The review will also address the question of how the United Nations system can provide effective support and follow-up to Global Forum meetings.

85. UNFPA and IOM are leading a system-wide initiative to formulate recommendations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue, based on the experiences and lessons learned in implementing migration and development programmes since 2006. The initiative is expected to produce a set of concrete recommendations to maximize the benefits and address the challenges of migration.

86. In April 2013, the Commission on Population and Development, at its forty-sixth session, will consider the demographic aspects of recent migration trends, allowing the Economic and Social Council to contribute to the 2013 High-level Dialogue.

87. The Global Forum on Migration and Development is currently undertaking the second phase of an assessment, focusing on the future of the Global Forum beyond the 2013 High-level Dialogue. The results of the assessment, which will also consider the linkages with the United Nations, are expected to be available by the end of 2012.

88. With the right set of policies, the benefits of international migration for countries of origin and destination, and for migrants and their families, can be harnessed, while its negative impacts may be reduced. The 2013 High-level Dialogue is a crucial step for the international community to guide the global migration policy agenda, make concrete recommendations on how to make migration work for development and ensure that the issue of international migration is brought into the post-2015 development debate.

Annex

Proposed programme of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at United Nations Headquarters

The High-level Dialogue would consist of four plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and four interactive round-table meetings to be held in concurrence with the plenary meetings.

First day of the High-level Dialogue

10 a.m.-10.30 a.m.	Opening of the High-level Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly
	Statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, and an eminent person and a representative from civil society, both to be selected by the President of the Assembly
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Continuation of the first plenary meeting
	Round table I: Leveraging diaspora contributions for development (to be held in parallel with the first plenary meeting)
3 p.m.-6 p.m.	Second plenary meeting
	Round table II: Promoting legal and orderly migration, while protecting migrant rights (to be held in parallel with the second plenary meeting)

Second day of the High-level Dialogue

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Third plenary meeting
	Round table III: Mainstreaming migration into the development agenda (to be held in parallel with the third plenary meeting)
3 p.m.-5.30 p.m.	Fourth plenary meeting
	Round table IV: Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration at all levels (to be held in parallel with the fourth plenary meeting)
5.30 p.m.-6 p.m.	Oral summaries of the deliberations of the four interactive round-table meetings presented by the respective chairpersons
	Summary statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
	Closing of the High-level Dialogue by the President of the General Assembly

United Nations A/67/255

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 August 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 115 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade

Programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/114, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery, as well as steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative.

Working in close collaboration with States members of the Caribbean Community and the African Union, the Department of Public Information organized a series of activities during the last week of March 2012 to mark the fifth annual observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. A concert was also organized in the General Assembly Hall, which took place on 15 May 2012. The theme of the 2012 commemoration, "Honouring the heroes, resisters and survivors", recognizes those who fought against slavery in the past as well as those who fought and continue to fight against the continuing consequences of racism and prejudice.

The Department of Public Information utilized its network of global information centres to disseminate the message of the observance internationally and to promote partnership activities with civil society organizations committed to building awareness of the dangers of racism and racial discrimination, as well as the continuing legacy of slavery and the slave trade.

* A/67/150.

12-45231 (E) 310812

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 2007, the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/122, designated 25 March the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to collaborate with and build on the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), including its Slave Route Project, to establish a programme of educational outreach to inculcate future generations with the causes, consequences and lessons of the slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice.

3. In its follow-up resolutions, including resolution 66/114, the General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to report on continued action to implement the outreach programme and steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative.

4. The present report is submitted pursuant to those requests.

II. Background

5. The transatlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration in history. The extensive exodus of Africans to many areas of the world over a 400-year period was unprecedented in the annals of recorded human history. The legacy of that migration is evident today in the large populations of people of African descent living throughout the Americas. Public awareness is scant regarding the slave trade and the lasting consequences it has had on societies throughout the world. It is important to acknowledge the contributions that enslaved people and their descendants have made to the societies that forced them into bondage.

6. In the activities organized for the 2012 observance, there was a keen recognition that raising awareness about the transatlantic slave trade can be an occasion to illustrate the impact it has had on present-day society. Many people today are still profoundly affected by the consequences of slavery, manifested through bias, hatred, prejudice and intolerance. Knowing about the history, and the individuals who rose up against slavery, can provide a valuable perspective and be a source of pride and motivation for present and future generations in overcoming current challenges.

III. Heroism, resistance and survival

7. The theme of the 2012 commemoration, "Honouring the heroes, resisters and survivors", recognizes those who fought against slavery in the past as well as those who continue to fight against the continuing consequences of racism and prejudice.

8. Throughout the present year's commemoration, the heroes and the anonymous resisters who made sacrifices to bring the transatlantic slave trade to an end were highlighted. Their stories were told, and their images featured, during the General Assembly commemorative meeting, in panel discussions, at student conferences, in study guides, on posters, on exhibition walls and on websites.

9. A visual theme for the 2012 observance featured three faces against the background of the map of the transatlantic slave trade: Zumbi, the last leader of the Quilombo dos Palmares in Brazil; Harriet Tubman, one of the leaders of the Underground Railroad in the United States of America; and a third face representing the countless anonymous resisters and survivors of the transatlantic slave trade.

IV. Remembrance activities

10. Remembrance activities were organized at Headquarters and other United Nations offices around the world. The 2012 commemorative activities at Headquarters commenced with a week-long programme from 23 to 30 March. They continued with a concert in the General Assembly Hall on 15 May and an exhibition at Headquarters, which opened on 27 March and remained on view until 10 June.

Department of Public Information/non-governmental organization panel discussion

11. Organized by the Department of Public Information, the non-governmental organization briefing on the theme "Honouring the heroes, resisters and survivors" opened the commemorative observance on 23 March and was broadcast on the Internet. Presentations were made by Sasha Turner, Assistant Professor of History, Quinnipiac University; Rita Pemberton, Professor of History at the University of the West Indies; and Herb Boyd, an author, journalist and activist. Moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, the panel discussed the geographical origin of the Africans who were deported during the transatlantic slave trade and noted the relationship between the slave trade and women's human rights.

12. Panellists recognized the plethora of unsung heroes and heroines who utilized a variety of strategies to challenge the system of enslavement. They also recognized a number of familiar heroes who organized slave resistance, including Nanny of the Jamaican Maroons, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Julian Fedon, General Buddhoe, Samuel "Daddy" Sharpe, Olaudah Equiano and Phyllis Wheatley, a poet and the first African-American woman to publish her writing.

Solemn commemorative meeting of the General Assembly

13. The highlight of the remembrance activities was the solemn commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on 26 March. The Deputy Secretary-General read the following statement of the Secretary-General:

> The transatlantic slave trade was a tragedy because of slavery's fundamental barbarism and immense scope and because of its organized, systematic nature. One set of human beings — the traders, owners and others who participated in and profited from this evil enterprise — elevated themselves above another, assaulting their victims' very essence.

Statements by the President of the Assembly and representatives of the regional groups and of the host country highlighted the devastating impact of slavery and called for this painful chapter never to be forgotten or repeated.

14. The keynote address was delivered by Rick Kittles, Scientific Director of African Ancestry, an ancestry tracing company based in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Kittles, who is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine and the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Illinois, Chicago, described how and why it was important to educate young people of African descent about their history.

15. The dancers and drummers of the National Ballet of Cameroon presented a re-enactment of the voyage of those Africans who were captured in their villages, taken across the ocean, sold as slaves and brought to their new lives in the plantations of the Americas.

Exhibitions and cultural and culinary events

16. Two exhibitions were developed in 2012: a core educational travelling exhibit and a more elaborate exhibit for the annual commemoration at United Nations Headquarters. The Headquarters exhibit included artefacts and images from private collections and historical images from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Yale University Press, the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., and numerous academic sources. The exhibit also included maps from the *Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*, two slide shows, audio listening stations featuring interviews by United Nations Radio with academics, scholars and descendants of enslaved people in English, French, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Spanish, as well as an installation by Haitian-American artist Alex Locadia. The core travelling exhibit, designed and developed by the Department of Public Information, will be sent to various locations in 2013, in cooperation with the network of United Nations information centres.

17. The exhibit opened in the Visitors Lobby on 27 March with remarks by the Chair of the Permanent Memorial Committee and the Minister for Culture of Cameroon. Following the opening, a celebration of the cultural and culinary specialties of Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas was held in the General Assembly lobby. Chef and culinary consultant Scott Barton discussed the historical similarities between the foods and culinary practices of African countries and the countries to which enslaved Africans were brought. The event also included performances by the National Ballet of Cameroon and steel pan music performed by a musician from Trinidad and Tobago.

Documentary film screening

18. The documentary film entitled *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black People in America from the Civil War to World War II* was screened on 28 March. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same name by Douglas A. Blackmon, the film challenges the belief that slavery in the United States ended with the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. It chronicles the ways in which African-Americans were coerced into forced labour in the Reconstructionist South following the Civil War and into the twentieth century. Following the screening, the film's producer, Sam Pollard, led a question-and-answer session with the audience, which included representatives of Member States and civil society and students.

Global videoconference for students

19. A global videoconference brought together some 600 students from secondary educational institutions in five locations: the Dominican Republic, the Gambia,

Ghana, the United States and Bermuda. The interactive forum aimed to bring together societies linked by the history of the transatlantic slave trade to share stories about local heroes, resisters and survivors; to raise global awareness of the widespread resistance to slavery; to consider the legacy of slavery and its link to racism and prejudice; and to discuss concrete actions that can be taken to address these problems.

20. The keynote presenter for the conference, Christopher Moore, Curator and research historian for the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, spoke about his efforts to restore the African burial ground in lower Manhattan. Student leaders participated as moderators.

21. A selection of images and materials was made available for download on the Remembrance website and, in advance of the videoconference, two Facebook pages with corresponding study guides — one for students and one for teachers — were created by the Department of Public Information.

22. A survey was distributed at United Nations Headquarters following the student videoconference. A selection of responses given to the request "Please tell us something about the transatlantic slave trade that you didn't know before participating in this year's conference" follows:

- I didn't know that slavery in other places was so similar to slavery in America.
- I did not know personal stories, heroes, and the age that children were in the transatlantic slave trade.
- I didn't know how heavily it impacted other countries, the fact that it still goes on today to a certain degree.
- I was not aware of Transatlantic Slave Trade hero Joseph Cinque who revolted and was able to be liberated and sent back to Africa.
- I did not know that very young children were also taken into slavery as opposed to just strong men and women.
- I didn't know that it affected places other than the United States and Africa.
- I learned that it had a big influence on the development of Caribbean countries.
- I didn't know that we are all connected by a common thread.
- I didn't know that the slave trade had reached places in the Caribbean.
- I didn't know slavery still existed around the world.
- I didn't know that children ages 10-12 were also bought into slavery.
- I didn't know about the African burial grounds in New York and that Wall Street was a slave market.

Radio features

23. A special feature of the commemoration week for 2012 was the broadcast of several radio programmes on the slave trade. They included interviews conducted on the subject in Brazil, Cuba, Ghana and Jamaica with academics, scholars and descendants of enslaved people, as well as the rebroadcast of previous features on

the issue. A dedicated page was created on the United Nations Radio website, which included programmes in English, French, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Spanish.

Remembering the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade Concert

24. On 15 May, a concert was held in the General Assembly Hall, organized by the Department of Public Information in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Jamaica, and with the collaboration of the member States of the Caribbean Community and of the African Union. Entitled "Remembering the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade Concert", it was intended to raise awareness of the transatlantic slave trade and its continuing consequences and the permanent memorial at the United Nations in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

25. The President of the General Assembly made a statement at the concert, followed by a video message by the Secretary-General and remarks by the Chair of the Permanent Memorial Committee on Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Chair of the Group of African States. Sheila Walker, cultural anthropologist and Executive Director of Afrodiaspora, Inc., provided a historical background accompanied by a video presentation. Performers included Rachelle Jeanty, a Haitian singer/songwriter; Mbaye Dieye Faye and Sing Sing Rhythm of Senegal; Chen Lo and the Lo Frequency, a six-member hip-hop band from the United States; and the reggae group Third World from Jamaica. The concert was broadcast on the Internet (live and archived), and also carried live on television in the New York City area. It was also broadcast on several African partner channels of the Canal France International television network.

Outreach through United Nations information centres in collaboration with civil society organizations and Member States

26. The network of United Nations information centres, services and offices around the world organized educational outreach activities to raise awareness of the International Day in collaboration with local partners, including host Governments, media, civil society, youth associations and academic and cultural institutions.

27. The following summary provides examples of activities undertaken by United Nations information centres during the week of the commemoration:

(a) Prominent posting of the message of the Secretary-General for the International Day of Remembrance on the websites of the United Nations information centres and its timely dissemination to the media and civil society;

(b) Field trip for 160 students and teachers, from six Ghanaian schools, to the Cape Coast Castle UNESCO World Heritage Site organized by the United Nations Information Centre in Accra. As a follow-up to the field trip, students were invited to submit artwork on the theme "The door of no return: reliving the experience of the transatlantic slave trade";

(c) Conferences organized at a university by the United Nations Information Centre in Antananarivo, and in which five schools participated. Activities included lectures, a film screening, a poetry recital and an exhibition contest;

(d) Screening of the UNESCO film *Slave Routes: A Global Vision* at the Information Centre in Brazzaville. About 300 high school students participated in the discussion that followed the screening;

(e) Field trip to a slave trading post in Bagamoyo, United Republic of Tanzania, for students and teachers organized by the United Nations Information Centre in Dar es Salaam in collaboration with the Youth of the United Nations Association and the Tanzanian Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources;

(f) Exhibition of photos, posters, books, films, maps and brochures in 10 high schools in Burkina Faso, at the Parliament and at the United Nations Information Centre in Ouagadougou; the audience included students, parliamentarians, national authorities, civil society, media and the public;

(g) Lecture on slavery and human rights given by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Pretoria. Attended by representatives of academia and civil society, the event took place at the District Six Museum in Cape Town, an important site in the struggle against apartheid, and a settlement for freed Malay slaves in the Cape Province of South Africa;

(h) The United Nations Information Centre for Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico published on its website the initial segment of the e-book of essays by scholars and other experts from the region on various aspects of African heritage and its influence on the societies and culture. In coordination with educational authorities, schools associated with UNESCO and other partners, the Centre organized several programmes of activities with secondary-school students from public and private institutions that included the presentation of the UNESCO video entitled *Slave Trade Routes* followed by panel discussions and artistic workshops;

(i) A modified version of the United Nations Headquarters exhibit was produced by the United Nations Information Centre in Ankara and held in the city's main metro station, which has an estimated daily traffic of 500,000 people. Exhibit panels were translated into Turkish, and are expected to travel to other cities in Turkey;

(j) An exhibition, seminar, poetry recitation and short drama production for senior students and youth groups at the United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka.

28. The 2012 commemoration served to further institutionalize within the international community the commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance, which is being observed in a growing number of countries.

V. Information outreach and resources

29. For the 2012 commemoration, the Department of Public Information created a visual identity, a commemorative poster, a banner and postcards depicting the theme "Honouring the heroes, resisters and survivors".

30. The Department established a website in the six official languages of the United Nations to facilitate global access to the commemorative activities. The site provides educational resources on the transatlantic slave trade, with links to the message of the Secretary-General, a description of events at Headquarters and around the world, stories about heroes featured on the poster and related documents.

31. As part of its outreach programme, the Department facilitated the live webcast of events organized for the observance. Excerpts were made available through the UNifeed programme to television stations worldwide. The Media Liaison and Accreditation Unit provided services to journalists who reported on the commemorative events. United Nations Radio, United Nations Television, United Nations Webcast and the United Nations News Centre all covered the remembrance events.

32. The remembrance activities were covered by diverse media outlets, including *Antigua Observer*, Xinhua news agency and People's Daily Online, the Cuban Radio Cadena Agramonte, the *Jamaica Observer*, the *Miami Herald*, africanewswire.com, africanspotlight.com, afriquejet.com, allafrica.com, blacktiemagazine.com, caraibcreolenews.com, caribbeanlifenews.com, caribseek.com, correodelorinoco.gob.ve, elespectador.com, indiablooms.com, in-jamaica.com, jamaica.gleaner.com, jamaicans.com, modernghana.com, newKerala.com, newsroomamerica.com and scoop.co.nz. A number of cultural and research institutions also published stories about the activities, such as Afro-Ubuntu in Uruguay, Fundación Drecca in Colombia, AfiaviMag.com in France, the Coalition to Preserve Reggae Music, and University and Community Action for Racial Equity in the United States.

VI. Activities by Member States

33. Member States transmitted information on national educational programmes as requested in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 66/114. The following summary describes the activities:

(a) The education system of El Salvador included the issue of slavery in its social studies curriculum at the secondary and tertiary levels. The programme covered various aspects, including past slavery in the Americas and the national territory — such as the abolition of slavery in Central America by the Constituent Assembly in 1823, and the Civil War in the United States — as well as protection from modern slavery as defined by international instruments. Relevant textbooks and study guides were made available by the Ministry of Education;

(b) Greece included the issue of slavery and the slave trade under the human rights education curriculum at the primary and secondary levels. The key concepts and principles of intercultural education are covered in school curricula, including respect for diversity, equal chances and democratic citizenship;

(c) The Government of Jamaica has been working through various organizations to educate society on the issue of slavery. The work of the Ministry of Youth and Culture is guided by the National Cultural Policy, which encourages and promotes awareness of the history and cultural expressions of Jamaica, and is implemented by various bodies: the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission promotes cultural programmes and activities; the Institute of Jamaica has responsibilities involving several museums and libraries, including the African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica/Jamaica Memory Bank; the Jamaica National Heritage Trust is responsible for the declaration, preservation and maintenance of national sites and monuments, several of which are associated with the transatlantic trade; and the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office protects instruments of traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources. The Ministry of Education has developed the Culture in Education Programme, which

encourages the study of, reflection on and use of national images, symbols and heroes, as well as participation in events marking local and national achievements, and encourages visits by the school community to places of historical and cultural interest. The Programme requires that each school appoint a culture agent responsible for overseeing the implementation of the programme. Various tertiary-level institutions, such as the University of the West Indies, offer heritage-based degree courses;

(d) Jordan integrated the issues of slavery and the slave trade in the civic and national education modules of its curriculum for grades 8, 9, 11 and 12, including the feudal and slavery system and its consequences;

(e) Kenya included the teaching of slavery and slave trade in the education curriculum at its primary and secondary school levels. The Kenyan Ministry of Education has recommended that the study of the issue be strengthened in the upcoming curriculum review;

(f) The Supreme Council for Education of Qatar included the issue of slavery and the slave trade in the school curriculum under the topic of the development and promotion of human rights, based on freedom, which comprises two elements: human rights and fighting slavery;

(g) The Ministry of National Education of Senegal has developed a curriculum on the history of slavery and the slave trade for secondary school students, which includes a field visit to and/or a school project about the House of Slaves on Gorée Island; Senegalese schools that are members of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network participate in activities linked to the commemoration of the victims of the slave trade and the abolition of slavery;

(h) Social and civil competency is one of the components of the mandatory secondary education in Spain. In support of the curriculum, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain has developed educational materials that include the issue of slavery. The theme of slavery is also being taught in a multidisciplinary approach, which has resulted in several projects, such as the award-winning Slave Route multimedia product for primary school students;

(i) The history of slavery and the slave trade has been included in the school curriculum of Togo at the primary and secondary levels since before the country's independence. The curriculum currently is being revised to ensure an increased awareness of slavery and the slave trade by present and future generations with the goal of fostering dialogue and understanding among peoples. The new curriculum is being developed along with a broader project on the Slave Route in the Gulf of Guinea.

VII. Contribution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade

34. Within the framework of the strategy defined for its initiative entitled "Slave Route Project: resistance, freedom, heritage", UNESCO has produced a new educational film entitled *A Story Not to Be Forgotten* in order to more effectively tap the potential of audiovisual material in raising awareness about the tragedy of

the slave trade, slavery and their consequences in modern societies. A related pedagogical booklet targeting young people has also been released.

35. The initiative was made possible thanks to the generous financial contribution of the Government of Bulgaria. The 35-minute film, presented from the perspectives of enslaved men and women, tells their stories through archival documents, contemporary works of art, film excerpts and other sources. The film is sponsored by the renowned French soccer player Lilian Thuram. Produced with the active participation of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, the film has involved more than 300 young people and some 50 education professionals from different regions. A preview screening was organized in April 2012 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in the presence of the Director General, several high-profile figures and 250 young people. The film was broadcast in France in May 2012 by Ô television channel, on the French national day dedicated to the memory of the abolition of the slave trade and slavery. A talk show recorded at UNESCO was prepared for this occasion with school teenagers and experts, including Christiane Taubira, Minister for Justice of France.

36. Since its release, the film has been screened at various prominent cultural events around the world, including on 16 June on Gorée Island within the framework of the UNESCO transatlantic slave trade educational project entitled "Breaking the silence" and on 1 July during the popular Keti Koti festival in Amsterdam, celebrated annually to mark the abolition of slavery in the former Dutch colonies.

37. Currently available in French and English versions, the film will be broadcast on television stations in various regions of the world and also made available on the UNESCO website. In addition, plans are under way for the creation of a DVD version to ensure the widest possible dissemination.

VIII. Future activities

38. The Department of Public Information will further strengthen its collaboration with Member States in the annual observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It will seek practical and innovative ways to engage in education outreach activities on the theme of the transatlantic slave trade, including in different locations around the world. An initial review of the surveys distributed following the student videoconference confirmed the importance of the educational outreach activities to ensure that the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade is better understood. The Department will build on the results of the survey to further develop its educational outreach efforts.

39. The Department will continue to lend its full support to the promotion of the permanent memorial initiative, in the planning of which member States from the Caribbean Community and the African Union play a primary role, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships and UNESCO. The network of United Nations information centres will assist in awareness-raising activities.

40. The Department will seek ways to consolidate existing partnerships and establish and develop new relationships with research institutions, schools, colleges and other educational entities involved in the study of the slave trade, and to

communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice. Collaboration with UNESCO will be intensified, including through the dissemination of educational materials developed under the UNESCO Slave Route Project.

41. Efforts will be made to strengthen partnerships forged in 2012 and during past commemorations with civil society organizations, museums and academic and cultural institutions. The Department will explore the possibility for these partners to co-host or sponsor commemorative activities on their premises, with the goal of expanding the scope of activities and reaching an even wider audience.

United Nations A/67/256

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 August 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 66 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of the rights of children: promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/141, in which the Assembly requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to submit a report on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda.

Covering the period from August 2011 to August 2012, the present report provides an overview of progress on the children and armed conflict agenda, followed by an account of new developments. Section II details progress made over the past year, including in efforts to combat impunity and to end the recruitment and use of children; the identification of good practices in the monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children; steps taken towards universal ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict; the mainstreaming of child protection within the United Nations system; collaboration with child protection partners; and awareness-raising. Section III highlights emerging issues of concern and opportunities for ensuring the protection of conflict-affected children, focusing on three themes: the prevention of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups; the development of further cooperation with regional organizations on the children and armed conflict agenda; and the challenge posed by explosive weapons, in addition to possible avenues for tackling that challenge. The report concludes with a set of actionable recommendations on the protection of children affected by conflict for the attention of the General Assembly.

* A/67/150.

12-45308 (E) 300812

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/141 on the rights of the child, in which the Assembly requested the Special Representative to submit a report on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda. The present report covers the period from August 2011 to August 2012 and provides an overview of progress made in the children and armed conflict agenda over the past year, including in achieving accountability for grave violations against children, and focuses on three thematic areas: the prevention of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups; the development of further cooperation with regional organizations on the children and armed conflict agenda; and the challenge posed by explosive weapons, in addition to possible avenues for tackling that challenge. The report ends with recommendations aimed at enhancing the protection of children affected by conflict.

II. Overview of progress on the children and armed conflict agenda

A. Efforts to combat impunity

2. Since the previous report of the Special Representative (A/66/256), two milestone verdicts — by the International Criminal Court and the Special Court for Sierra Leone — have pushed the boundaries of accountability for violations against children committed during armed conflict and established path-breaking jurisprudence on the war crime of recruitment and use of children. On 14 March 2012, the International Criminal Court delivered its verdict in *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*. Thomas Lubanga, a warlord who had operated in the Ituri region of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, was convicted of the crimes of conscripting and enlisting children under the age of 15 years into his armed group, the Forces patriotiques pour la libération du Congo, and of using them to participate actively in hostilities. On 26 April 2012, the Special Court for Sierra Leone found the former President of Liberia, Charles Taylor, guilty of aiding and abetting war crimes committed by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) during the 1991-2002 civil war in Sierra Leone.

3. The two verdicts set important precedents. They send a powerful signal to perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity around the world that their acts will not go unpunished. Anecdotal evidence from child protection practitioners in the field suggests that both cases have not passed unnoticed: parties to conflict are cognizant of the cases and the implications for their own behaviour. Important international jurisprudence was established in both cases and is discussed below. In addition, in the context of the legal proceedings of these two courts, new practice is emerging, and concomitant lessons learned, in relation to the participation of children in legal proceedings as both victims and witnesses. The Special Representative hopes that these precedents will turn the tide against impunity, not only through international or hybrid courts, but also in the context of prosecution by national courts.

1. Special Court for Sierra Leone: setting precedents for criminal responsibility

4. The Special Court for Sierra Leone, set up as a hybrid judicial body to investigate, prosecute and try those bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the armed conflict in Sierra Leone, was the first international court to determine that the recruitment and use of children aged under 15 years constituted a war crime under customary international law. Consequently, for the first time in history, a small number of children also testified as witnesses before the Court.

5. In view of the large number of children who participated in the civil war, the statute of the Court gave the Court jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed by any person of 15 years of age or older associated with armed actors at the time of the alleged commission of the crimes. Early in his tenure, however, the first Chief Prosecutor of the Court stated that as a matter of policy he did not intend to indict persons for crimes that they had committed when they were children, but instead to prosecute those who bore the greatest responsibility for those crimes, interpreted as the adult recruiters and commanders.

6. The Court's judgement against Charles Taylor marks the first time that a former Head of State has been convicted of war crimes against children that were committed by an armed group that was found not to be under his direct command and control. The Court established that the practical assistance, encouragement and moral support that Charles Taylor gave to RUF rebels in neighbouring Sierra Leone while serving as the President of Liberia was sufficient to make him criminally responsible for the recruitment and use of children, in addition to the killing, mutilation, rape and enslavement of civilians, including children, performed by RUF combatants.

2. First case of the International Criminal Court dealing with the war crime of recruitment and use of children

7. Crimes committed against children during armed conflict have figured prominently in indictments issued by the International Criminal Court in cases in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. Although these are but a few cases compared to the number of perpetrators, when combined with the verdict in the trial of Thomas Lubanga, these indictments serve as a useful deterrent against child recruitment in situations of armed conflict.

8. The acts of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities are recognized in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as war crimes in conflicts of international and non-international character. Those acts are not, however, defined in the Statute, with it left to the Trial Chamber to provide legal interpretation.

9. In 2008, the Special Representative testified as an expert witness before the Court and submitted an amicus curiae brief providing clarification on the terms "conscripting and enlisting children" and "using them to participate actively in hostilities". She argued therein that there was in fact no distinction between voluntary enlistment and forced recruitment, pointing out that children were not always recruited through abduction or the brute use of force. Recruitment also took place in the context of, among other things, poverty, ethnic rivalry and ideological

motivation. In many cases, children had lost their family or been separated from their parents. Deprived of the protection of their community, they had no option but to join armed groups for their survival. In such circumstances, the consent given by a child could not be regarded as truly voluntary.

10. Furthermore, the Special Representative reasoned that the term "active participation" included direct support functions linked to combat, such as acting as scouts, messengers and porters. Children performed a myriad of functions that supported armed groups or forces and that exposed them to potential risk. In addition, girl child soldiers often played multiple roles: they were recruited to fight on the front line and performed support functions, including being used for sexual purposes and subjected to rape, forced marriage and other forms of sexual violence.

11. In its judgement, the Trial Chamber accepted that "conscription" and "enlistment" were both forms of recruitment, in that they referred to the incorporation of a boy or a girl under the age of 15 years into an armed group, whether coercively or voluntarily. It endorsed the conclusions of the Special Representative in that regard, stating that children could not give "informed" consent because they possessed limited understanding of the short-term and long-term consequences of their choices and actions and did not control or fully comprehend the structures and forces with which they were faced. In addition, it indicated that the line between voluntary and forced recruitment was both legally irrelevant and practically superficial in the context of children in armed conflict. The Chamber also decided to apply a broad interpretation of the term "participate actively in hostilities", holding that it included a wide range of individuals, from those on the front line (who participated directly) to the boys or girls who were involved in a myriad of roles that supported the combatants. It stated that all those activities, which covered either direct or indirect participation, had an underlying common feature: the child concerned was, at the very least, a potential target. The Trial Chamber also made a distinction between "direct participation" (classically used to determine combatant status under international humanitarian law) and "active participation" (the criterion for the use of children in hostilities), holding that the latter was to be interpreted broadly, without conferring combatant status on those children.

12. The Court's experience with its first witness, a former child soldier who recanted his initial testimony because of the presence of the defendant in the courtroom, revealed the challenge of drawing on evidence from children while ensuring their protection. This experience, among others, set in motion innovative approaches to protecting the rights and best interests of children during judicial proceedings, including alternative forms of participation. Special measures were established by the Court, including the use of screens between the witness and the accused, pre-statement and post-statement counselling, closed sessions and voice and image distortion. The Court also introduced the concept of "victim status" as an alternative, less intrusive way of ensuring access to justice for children. That status allows child victims to choose whether to participate in hearings in person or through legal representatives and allows for a larger number of children to participate while reducing stress and anxiety.

13. Other lessons can be learned from the verdict. For example, the evidence provided by child soldiers was not accepted by the judges, for various reasons. A key concern was the use of intermediaries to identify and support the witnesses

during the trial because those intermediaries were believed to have contaminated the evidence provided. In some cases, the former child soldiers simply could not remember the circumstances of their recruitment and use by the Forces patriotiques pour la libération du Congo. These experiences will, it is hoped, inform the development of best practices by the Court for use in future cases.

B. Progress made in ending child soldiering

14. In line with the mandate of the Special Representative to promote the collection of information about the plight of children affected by armed conflict, in addition to General Assembly resolutions 64/146, 65/197 and 66/141, in which the Assembly called upon relevant parties to conflict to take time-bound and effective measures to end grave violations against children, considerable progress has been made since the previous report of the Special Representative in eliciting commitments from armed forces and groups to end the recruitment and use of children. During the reporting period, five parties signed action plans with the United Nations to halt child soldiering: the Armée populaire pour la restauration de la république et la démocratie and the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix, armed groups operating in the Central African Republic, in October and November 2011, respectively; the Sudan People's Liberation Army, in South Sudan, in March 2012; the Government of Myanmar, in June 2012; and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, in July 2012. This brings the total number of action plans signed to 19, the fruit of a collaborative effort between the Office of the Special Representative, country-level task forces, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and, where relevant, peacekeeping or special political missions.

15. Action plans set out a comprehensive process by which the party to conflict will cease the recruitment and use of children in a durable manner. As such, they broadly involve four main components: verification and identification of children in the ranks of the armed forces or group; separation of children from the armed forces or group; the establishment of prevention mechanisms, including the strengthening of the domestic legal framework prohibiting child recruitment, the issuance of directives to uniformed personnel and the establishment of punitive measures for offenders; and the socioeconomic and psychosocial reintegration of children into civilian life. They also serve as key documents to monitor commitments by armed forces and groups to end grave violations against children.

16. The Special Representative dispatched technical missions to Nepal and Sri Lanka in December 2011 and January 2012, respectively, to review and report on compliance by the parties with their action plans. Upon verification of full compliance, two parties did not feature in the 2011 edition of the lists maintained by the Secretary-General of perpetrators of grave violations against children (A/66/782-S/2012/261, annexes I and II): the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, which signed an action plan in 2009, and the Iniya Bharathi faction in Sri Lanka, which signed an action plan in 2008 while part of the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal.

17. The Office of the Special Representative, in collaboration with key United Nations partners, has continued to encourage parties who have not yet entered into dialogue with the United Nations, or signed an action plan, to do so. It has also

provided United Nations colleagues in the field and parties to conflict with technical support and guidance for the preparation and implementation of action plans. A growing concern is the number of persistent perpetrators of grave violations against children. Currently, 32 parties to conflict have been listed by the Secretary-General for at least five years and are therefore considered persistent perpetrators.

C. Good practices in monitoring and reporting

18. In an effort to capture good practices and facilitate knowledge-sharing between United Nations teams implementing the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children established in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), the Office of the Special Representative worked with UNICEF, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs to conduct a joint global study, focusing on experiences in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, while also gathering information from further afield on experiences in implementing the mechanism. The good practices documented in the study may be replicable in other country contexts, with the overall aim of continuing to strengthen and improve monitoring and reporting activities.

19. Key findings in the study include:

(a) Broad participation and ownership by the United Nations organizations operating in the country is fundamental in maximizing the potential of the mechanism;

(b) The impact of the mechanism is maximized when a clear Government counterpart is defined and a Government focal point appointed;

(c) In country situations in which there was significant engagement by the senior management, in particular the head of mission, the resident/humanitarian coordinator and/or the UNICEF representative, the effectiveness of the mechanism increased, facilitating productive dialogue with parties to conflict;

(d) Each United Nations entity has unique technical expertise and advocacy, monitoring and programmatic capacity. Broader participation of United Nations entities ensures better monitoring, reporting and response for victims of grave violations;

(e) Integrating child protection concerns into peace agreements and structures helps in engaging parties to conflict;

(f) Sharing information collected through the mechanism with broader human rights actors contributes to increasing the accountability of parties to conflict;

(g) Systems to manage information on grave violations help to identify vulnerable locations and thus devise preventive actions;

(h) It is crucial for the peace mission and United Nations entities who are members of the mechanism's country task force to receive dedicated resources for child protection, for staffing and to support child victims, if they are to deliver on the child protection mandate;

(i) In many countries, it is challenging to monitor and report on cases of sexual violence. Accordingly, further opportunities to gather information on sexual violence should be explored through alternative data collection systems in use at the country level, while upholding the principle of "do no harm".

D. Update on ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

20. During the reporting period, the Office of the Special Representative continued to advocate the strengthening of the global legal and normative framework for the protection of children, including through the implementation of the campaign for the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The campaign, dubbed "Zero Under 18", has been conducted in collaboration with UNICEF, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Optional Protocol, adopted in 2000, prohibits the forced recruitment of children under the age of 18 years by armed forces and armed groups and their direct participation in hostilities.

21. The Special Representative participated in a forum organized by the Government of Belgium in February 2012 to mark the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the optional protocols to the Convention. Other activities to create awareness of and momentum around the campaign included the provision of technical advice to Member States on the ratification process, the launch of a social media campaign promoted by celebrities and the issuance of several public statements in which the need for further ratifications was stressed.

22. Between August 2011 and August 2012, the Optional Protocol was signed by Saint Lucia and ratified by San Marino. In addition, four States (Côte d'Ivoire, Grenada, Malaysia and the Niger) acceded to the Optional Protocol, bringing the total number of States parties to 147. To date, 23 States have signed the Optional Protocol but not ratified it, while 24 have neither signed nor ratified.

E. Mainstreaming child protection within the United Nations system

23. The Special Representative has continued to accord priority to mainstreaming child protection expertise within the United Nations system, in line with her mandate to foster international cooperation to ensure respect for children's rights in situations of armed conflict. Child protection focal points in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs play an important role in mainstreaming child protection at Headquarters and providing support to field-based child protection advisers, working closely with the Office of the Special Representative.

24. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations-Department of Field Support child protection policy directive established in 2009, referenced in the previous report of the Special Representative, has continued to guide child protection activities and the role of child protection advisers in peacekeeping settings. It has

also enhanced the visibility of child protection concerns and provided focus and clarity on generic child protection priorities within United Nations missions. The Office of Special Representative, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs are currently working together to update the policy directive and to integrate the perspective of the Department of Political Affairs, which adopted the policy directive in 2010.

25. Ensuring adequate child protection capacity in peacekeeping and special political missions is crucial for the mainstreaming of child protection concerns among uniformed and civilian peacekeepers and staff members, and for the collection of accurate, objective, reliable and verifiable information on the plight of children. Child protection advisers are currently deployed in eight peacekeeping missions and three special political missions.

26. The role of the General Assembly, through its Third and Fifth Committees, in supporting child protection capacity in the challenging and fragile environments in which United Nations missions are deployed has been vital to ensuring an adequate response by the Organization to child protection concerns. Child protection advisers and officers play a critical role in ensuring that uniformed and civilian personnel are aware of the ethical criteria against which they are held with regard to child protection, in making certain that the mission's substantive activities are sensitive to children's needs and in gathering information on violations against children taking place in the mission's area of operations.

F. Collaboration with child protection partners

27. Central to the mandate of the Special Representative is collaboration and coordination with other United Nations entities, Member States and non-governmental bodies involved in child protection. The principles of complementarity and partnership underpin the Special Representative's strategic plan and have characterized her tenure to date. Collaboration on three broad areas of work merit highlighting in this regard.

28. With a view to strengthening the collection of information on the plight of children affected by armed conflict, the Office of the Special Representative has worked closely with UNICEF, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and other partners with a field presence to develop technical guidance on monitoring and reporting violations against children. To ensure that the mechanism in place for information collection and advocacy is responsive and adaptive, the good practice study described in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the present report was conducted in partnership with key United Nations child protection actors. Collaborative efforts continue to expand, with new partnerships being developed with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1998 (2011) and with the International Labour Organization on economic reintegration.

29. UNICEF has been a key partner in the signature and implementation of action plans to end grave violations against children. Its role ensures implementation of and follow-up to reintegration programmes for children being separated from armed forces or groups. This complementary approach marries the role of the Special

Representative as a moral voice and advocate for children affected by armed conflict with the programmatic and technical expertise of UNICEF, creating a multiplier effect in the two entities' contribution to child protection.

30. In the area of advocacy, the Special Representative has collaborated with Member States and key child protection actors on specific areas of common interest. For example, she hosted a panel discussion with representatives of the Governments of Colombia and Sierra Leone in October 2011 to share experiences in the prevention of violations against children. Similarly, the campaign for the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, described in paragraph 20 of the present report, is a joint endeavour with UNICEF, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and OHCHR.

G. Advocacy efforts

31. The Special Representative, in her role as global advocate for children affected by armed conflict, continued to act as the moral voice for children in conflict zones. Through field trips, outreach and use of traditional and social media, she voiced the concerns of children in conflict areas, sought to increase solidarity with children affected by armed conflict and maintained a sense of urgency among key decision makers and other constituencies.

1. Field visits

32. The Special Representative's emphasis on field missions continued to be central to her advocacy efforts. Field visits enable first-hand assessments of the situation of children, engagement with Governments to support their efforts in protecting children, the securing of specific commitments from parties to conflict on child protection and support for the implementation of monitoring and reporting activities, and dialogue with relevant parties. During the reporting period and upon the invitation of the Governments concerned, the Special Representative carried out field visits to the Central African Republic and Somalia (November 2011), South Sudan (March 2012) and Myanmar (June 2012).

33. While in the Central African Republic, the Special Representative witnessed the signature of an action plan with the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix, an armed group, to end the recruitment and use of children. Since then, progress has been made in the identification, separation and socioeconomic reintegration of children. The Special Representative also met the Prime Minister and other senior Government officials in Bangui and conducted field visits to Ndele and Obo. In Obo, she met victims of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and representatives of local authorities, civil society and the Ugandan People's Defence Forces. As a result of her direct advocacy vis-à-vis the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Central African Republic ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict in December 2011.

34. In Somalia, the Special Representative met the President, Prime Minister and other officials of the Transitional Federal Government. She also visited Marino Camp in central Mogadishu, where former Al-Shabaab combatants, including children, were being held by the Transitional Federal Government. During her visit,

the Transitional Federal Government committed itself to signing and implementing an action plan to end the recruitment and use of children by its forces. The Special Representative also met the Force Commander of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), who reiterated the Mission's commitment to protecting civilians, and children in particular, during its operations. He pledged to continue to provide maximum support for efforts to identify and separate children from the forces of the Transitional Federal Government, including through the appointment of a child protection adviser in AMISOM.

35. The Special Representative travelled to South Sudan to assess the situation of children affected by conflict. She met the President, Salva Kirr, senior Government officials and other United Nations and civil society partners. She travelled to Malakal and Renk, where she visited refugee camps and met South Sudanese returning from the Sudan. She witnessed the signature of an updated action plan to end the recruitment and use of children by the South Sudanese armed forces, which will continue to implement the action plan initially signed in 2009, before independence, with United Nations support. She also advocated the educational rights of children in South Sudan, where currently only 4 per cent of young people are enrolled in secondary education. She stressed the importance of according priority to education in Government and donor budget allocations.

36. In June 2012, the Special Representative travelled to Myanmar to sign an action plan with the Government for the release of children associated with the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw). The action plan provides for the release, verified by the United Nations, of children associated with the armed forces and prevention of further recruitment; the strengthening of recruitment procedures; awareness-raising; the strengthening of disciplinary action against perpetrators; access to military bases, prisons and other places where children may be; and reintegration. Of particular significance is the Government's agreement to add specific provisions allowing access to non-State actors who have signed, or are in the process of signing, peace agreements with the Government so that they are able to prepare similar action plans to halt child recruitment and use. The Special Representative met Government officials, including the President and the ministers of defence, labour and social affairs, and foreign affairs, in addition to the presidents of the upper and lower houses. She also met representatives of United Nations entities, members of the diplomatic community and civil society and children formerly associated with the armed forces.

2. Advocacy in relation to the Lord's Resistance Army

37. Over the past year, unprecedented attention has been paid to the LRA issue. In June 2012, the Secretary-General issued his first report on the situation of children and armed conflict affected by LRA (S/2012/365). Building on that momentum, to deepen awareness of the impact of the armed group on children, the Office of the Special Representative co-hosted an event with the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations and the International Peace Institute that featured the participation of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations and Grace Akallo, an activist and LRA survivor. Other activities to raise awareness of the LRA issue included a press conference on the report of the Secretary-General and public statements on the handling of captured LRA commanders.

III. Children and armed conflict: areas of development

A. Prevention of child recruitment

38. Children become associated with armed forces and groups for various reasons. In some situations, they are forcibly recruited or abducted by armed elements, or coerced and intimidated into joining them. Recruitment of children also takes place in the context of poverty, discrimination, revenge and loyalty to an ethnic, religious or tribal group. Often, insecurity and displacement propel children, especially those who have become separated from their families, to join an armed group for protection and survival.

39. Given the complex set of factors influencing child recruitment, prevention strategies, to be successful, require a holistic approach. Broadly, three approaches to prevention can be identified: effective legal prevention mechanisms at the national level, strengthening community protection mechanisms at the local level and providing children with alternatives to mobilization.

1. Development, dissemination and enforcement of the law

40. The criminalization of underage recruitment and the domestication of international norms and standards against the recruitment and use of children are crucial first steps in the prevention of child soldiering. Setting the parameters of who can be lawfully recruited into armed forces and groups, and ensuring that those who do not abide by those parameters may receive punishment, is the basis for regulation. Effective criminalization can be hindered by amnesties and de facto immunities granted to members of armed forces suspected of serious human rights abuses and/or armed groups that will become part of a national army in the framework of a peace process. In developing legal provisions, care must be taken to ensure that amnesties are not applicable to individuals who recruited or recruit children.

41. Laws are not effective, however, if there is no implementation or awareness of their existence. Measures to foster their dissemination are therefore also critical for prevention. These may include the creation of child protection units in the military, which have played an important role in countries such as South Sudan and the Sudan. Educational training programmes to inform armed forces and groups of the legal protection for children during armed conflict are equally important in increasing awareness of and compliance with international norms.

42. At the national level, effective investigations and prosecutions are potentially powerful prevention tools but are often hindered by lack of resources and capacity. The failure to investigate grave violations against children or to sanction those responsible is often linked to broader accountability issues. Short of systematic prosecution, a system for deterrence should be built through the prosecution of the most persistent violators. In addition, practical measures can be implemented by Governments to prevent underage recruitment, such as free birth registration or alternative mechanisms for age verification, in addition to conscription policies and mandatory vetting procedures to monitor child recruitment by national armies.

2. Strengthening family and community protection mechanisms

43. Where State institutions are weak, prevention must begin at the community level. Establishing and strengthening community protection mechanisms and raising the awareness of families, communities and their leaders of the issue are other critical factors for prevention. Child protection and recruitment prevention policies are unlikely to work in contexts in which the community promotes the association of children with armed groups. Children are also most vulnerable to recruitment when family and community protection systems are weakened. In some contexts, children join armed groups because they are encouraged to do so by their families and/or communities. Abusive family environments can also propel children on to the streets, where they are more vulnerable to recruitment, or directly into the ranks of an armed group. In Colombia, for example, the decision of children, mainly girls, to run away and join an armed group has been found to be closely linked to domestic exploitation and physical and sexual abuse.

44. Communities can prevent the voluntary or forced association of children with armed forces and groups in several ways. Community-based child protection systems can warn of the threat of recruitment or rerecruitment. Where armed groups depend on the moral or material support of the community, community structures may be able to put pressure on local commanders to release children and provide support for their protection. Community figures such as elders, traditional and/or religious leaders can also reach non-State parties to promote child protection commitments and prevent recruitment. In Afghanistan, for example, elders have in some cases reached agreements with local commanders to impede the recruitment of children and to stop attacks on schools. Community-based child protection systems can also help to reduce the overall vulnerability of children and provide special protection to children living and working in the streets, orphans and separated children, who are at particular risk of recruitment.

45. Partnering with and building the capacity of local child protection systems requires a situation analysis of each country in order to identify the strengths of and gaps in child protection systems at both the national and community levels. Community-based child protection mechanisms have been found to be a highly diverse and adaptable approach to child protection in different contexts. In some situations, child protection mechanisms have sprung out of women's associations and have been engaged in collecting information on violations of children's rights and in protecting children at particular risk of recruitment. Other community-led protection networks spring up spontaneously or are fostered by non-governmental organizations working with the community.

46. Initiatives to raise community awareness about the rights of children and the long-term implications of children's association with armed groups and to promote attitudinal change or encourage the intervention of community and religious leaders to halt child recruitment should be conducted in close collaboration with parents, community and religious leaders, teachers and children themselves. Dialogue to foster community ownership is crucial, as are consultations that aim at identifying and building on existing positive practices.

47. A common challenge is the creation of linkages between local, community-based protection structures, on the one hand, and elements of the formal child protection system and Government services, on the other. Often, the existence of

strong legal and policy frameworks notwithstanding, Government-led services are not filtering down to the communities. In extremely fragile contexts, the weakness of the State and its lack of control over all areas may be a factor accounting for gaps in Government services at the community level. In other contexts, it is a sign of insufficient priority and resources being accorded to the commitments made in the national framework. In the absence of formal mechanisms, community-led mechanisms often step in. These may include groups formed specifically for the purpose, such as child protection committees or community care coalitions, or they may simply consist of existing structures, such as women's groups, faith-based organizations and other community associations that take on a role in protecting children. To be effective, these mechanisms need adequate funding, capacity and knowledge to deal with child protection issues.

3. Empowering children through education, skills and livelihood opportunities

48. In many contexts, joining armed forces or groups is a deliberate choice for children who otherwise lack opportunities and a sense of purpose in life. It is unlikely that children will want to leave an armed group or refrain from rejoining unless the reasons why they originally volunteered have been addressed.

49. Ensuring children's access to education is itself a powerful means of reducing the risk of joining armed forces or groups in conflict-affected countries or fragile situations. Research has suggested that, in some contexts, the higher the level of education received, the less likely a child is to mobilize voluntarily. If children attend school, they are less likely to join armed forces or groups because they have other alternatives. In contrast, a lack of access to education leads many young people to see military training as their only opportunity to provide for themselves and their families. In situations of armed conflict, when the protective function of schools is most required, schools often become targets for attacks. The use of schools for military purposes equally reduces the likelihood of children attending school. All stakeholders must therefore ensure that schools are protected. Measures that field-based practitioners in conflict settings have used to prevent schools from being attacked include physical protection, community involvement in protection of schools, alternative delivery of education, negotiations with stakeholders to make schools zones of peace, restrictions on the military and political use of schools, and advocacy initiatives.

50. The recruitment of children into armed forces or groups has been documented as being often closely connected to poverty and social disadvantage. Poverty, often combined with social exclusion, has been found to stir the frustration of young people and create incentives for them to join armed groups. In many post-conflict societies, young people have little choice but to remain unemployed or accept short-term and exploitative work. Accordingly, providing children and young people with alternatives through high-quality education, both formal and non-formal, and national programmes for job creation and income generation for young people should be top priorities in national prevention strategies. Donor agencies should also accord priority to work in this regard. Food security and livelihood measures, tailored to the specific economic context, together with cultural and psychosocial support activities, can also contribute to preventing the recruitment and the rerecruitment of children.

B. Cooperation with regional organizations on children and armed conflict

51. Contemporary warfare continues to take a heavy toll on civilians, with the increased use of explosive weapons in populated areas by non-State armed groups, the use of new technologies that have in some instances resulted in civilian casualties and the use of children as combatants, weapons of war (e.g. victim bombers) and sexual slaves, among other things. With the growing involvement of regional organizations in peace enforcement and peacekeeping operations, often to deal with the main perpetrators of violations against children, the prominence of child protection concerns during such operations has increased. This highlights the need to further integrate child protection considerations into the work of regional organizations at the political/strategic and operational/tactical levels. Forces mandated by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the African Union, for example, are exposed to child soldiering and the use of child victim bombers and must also ensure that their operations are consistent with their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, as they relate to children, including with regard to the use of new technology.

52. A key aspect of the mandate of the Special Representative is to foster international cooperation, including with regional and subregional organizations, leading to the respect of child rights and protection of children during situations of armed conflict. This is consistent with the recognition in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations of the important role that regional organizations may play in complementing the efforts of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. With this in mind, since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative by the General Assembly, a central strategy of the Office has been to mainstream child protection in the operations and actions of peacekeeping bodies of the United Nations and of regional organizations. As such, the Special Representative has launched a series of initiatives aimed at ensuring that child protection considerations stemming from international humanitarian law and human rights law are fully integrated into the policies and practices of key regional partners.

1. European Union

53. In 2003, as a result of collaborative efforts with the Office of the Special Representative, the European Union adopted and later updated guidelines on children and armed conflict, in which the Union committed itself to addressing the impact of armed conflict on children in non-European Union settings, in the context of the Union's human rights policy, Common Foreign and Security Policy and policies on development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The guidelines propose a number of tools in this regard, including monitoring and reporting of violations by European Union heads of delegation, military commanders and special representatives, and the identification of political and diplomatic actions by the Union to advocate the protection of children. Tools for engagement with third parties include diplomatic initiatives, political dialogue and multilateral cooperation. Where the Union deploys crisis management operations involving civilian and/or uniformed personnel, it commits itself to taking into account, where appropriate, the specific needs of children during operational planning. Subsequently, the Union prepared a checklist for the integration of protection of

children affected by armed conflict into operations mandated through the Common European Security and Defence Policy, which seeks to ensure that child rights and protection concerns are systematically addressed in such operations.

54. Combined, the guidelines and the checklist provide multisectoral and wide-ranging guidance to European Union missions deployed in the context of the Common European Security and Defence Policy and to Union delegations based in conflict-affected countries. They also guide member States' bilateral policy in conflict contexts. While the development of this policy framework is an achievement in itself, efforts must now be made by the Union and its member States to fully draw on the guidance that it provides.

2. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

55. Since 2009, the Office of the Special Representative has been engaging with NATO, at their respective headquarters and in the field, to strengthen cooperation and better protect children affected by armed conflict. Consequently, in its Chicago Summit Declaration of 20 May 2012, NATO Heads of State and Government stated their commitment to the implementation of Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict and noted with concern the growing range of threats to children in armed conflict. Significantly, they also pointed out that NATO-led operations, such as the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, were taking an active role in preventing, monitoring and responding to violations against children, including through predeployment training and a violations alert mechanism, in collaboration with the United Nations.

56. In this context, in February 2012, NATO appointed its Assistant Secretary General for Operations as the high-level focal point for children and armed conflict, in charge of maintaining close dialogue with the United Nations and exploring further opportunities for mainstreaming child protection in NATO training and operations. This welcome development should facilitate the identification and dissemination of good practices, based on the experience of the International Security Assistance Force, to be integrated into NATO predeployment training.

3. African Union

57. African States have been key partners of the children and armed conflict agenda and cooperation with the African Union on child protection is taking place, albeit in an ad hoc manner. Support is being provided in the form of the deployment of child protection advisers to AMISOM and training for Union troop-contributing countries. Nevertheless, in the light of the Union's increasingly multifaceted role in prevention, mediation and stabilization, a systematic approach to engagement with the children and armed conflict agenda is proposed.

58. Partnership with the African Union on the children and armed conflict agenda could take the form of technical support for the development of guidelines, capturing the tools at the Union's disposal for the integration of child protection into various aspects of its work, including with regard to mediation and peace support operations. This could build on the Union's existing protection mechanisms, such as the civilian casualty tracking, analysis and response cell of AMISOM. Training packages on children and armed conflict for civilian and uniformed personnel could

be developed alongside the guidelines. As a first step, the designation of a focal point on children and armed conflict should be considered.

C. Explosive weapons

59. Explosive weapons, defined as weapons that cause injury, death or damage by projecting explosive blast, and often fragmentation, from the detonation of an explosive device, have a devastating impact on civilians, including children, especially when used in highly populated areas. Such weapons, which include air-dropped bombs, grenades, landmines, improvised explosive devices and mortars, tend to have effects that users cannot foresee or control accurately and therefore carry a great risk of being indiscriminate in their impact.

60. The use of explosive weapons by armed forces and groups often results in the commission of violations against children, including the injury, maiming and killing of children, the recruitment of children as suicide and victim bombers, the damaging and/or destruction of civilian installations such as schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access, for example through the planting of landmines. They also cause long-lasting harm by damaging children's emotional stability, education and future opportunities.

61. Explosive weapons with wide-area effect, such as multiple-launch rockets, high-explosive artillery, mortars, car bombs and other improvised explosive devices, are a particular cause for concern. In 2011, mortar and artillery shells, which are indiscriminate weapons traditionally used against massed infantry, killed and injured children in Libya, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic, among others. In Afghanistan and Iraq, there has been an increasing number of complex attacks involving the combination of two or more attacks on one target using explosive weapons by armed groups. These attacks, usually perpetrated against Government institutions, resulted in significant child casualties. Aerial bombardments and drone attacks in countries such as Pakistan and Yemen have also killed and injured children.

62. In most of the 23 country situations reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict covering the period from January to December 2011 (A/66/782-S/2012/261), explosive weapons were used in direct physical attacks against schools and hospitals, a grave violation of children's rights. They posed a threat to children and medical and educational personnel, resulting in the forced closure or the compromised functioning of those institutions. In some country situations, children were denied humanitarian access because of the presence of explosive remnants of war from previous conflicts.

63. In 2011, 22 incidents were reported of children being used by armed groups to carry out suicide attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including one 8-year-old girl and one 9-year-old girl. Some of those children were victim bombers, unknowingly carrying explosive packages.

64. While recognition of the distinct problems associated with explosive weapons has grown over time, there is a need for further policy attention and immediate action to effectively protect children from such weapons. There is also a need for greater acknowledgement that the use of such weapons, especially those with wide-area effect and those used in densely populated areas, severely harm children and

communities. Systematic data collection and analysis of the human cost of these weapons is critical to the development of baseline information, which would in turn further strengthen the empirical basis for advocacy efforts to better protect children. In the context of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children, the Office of the Special Representative will, together with United Nations partners, endeavour to gather disaggregated and more detailed information on child casualties resulting from the use of such weapons. The Office will also advocate the inclusion of specific provisions against the use of explosive weapons in action plans signed by parties to conflict that aim at halting the killing and maiming of children.

IV. Recommendations for the way forward

65. **The Special Representative urges Member States to enact appropriate national legislation to criminalize grave violations against children, including the recruitment and use of children in armed forces and armed groups, which has been defined in the Rome Statute as a war crime, and also to bring adult recruiters to justice in national courts. In this regard, the international community should support Member States, where appropriate, to develop and strengthen national capacity for the administration of justice.**

66. **International and national courts are encouraged to use and build on the jurisprudence arising from the judgement handed down by the International Criminal Court in the *Lubanga* case and to be guided by the measures that the Court has put in place related to child protection and child participation in judicial proceedings.**

67. **The Special Representative, encouraged by the continuing efforts of regional organizations to develop measures to ensure the mainstreaming of child protection concerns in activities related to conflict prevention, mediation and peace support operations, calls upon these regional organizations to fully implement the guidance developed.**

68. **In addition, the Special Representative encourages further engagement on the children and armed conflict agenda by other regional organizations with a view to developing awareness of and political commitment to the agenda, in addition to, where relevant, appropriate policy and operational guidance.**

69. **With regard to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the Special Representative urges Member States to take steps to reduce the impact of such weapons on children, including by:**

(a) **Refraining from using explosive weapons with wide-area effect in populated areas, including by revising and strengthening military policies and procedures, as necessary, and ensuring that all military operations are in compliance with international humanitarian law and underpinned by the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution;**

(b) **Supporting the collection of data on the impact of explosive weapons on children, including by collecting and sharing such information with the United Nations;**

(c) **Ensuring that those using explosive weapons in contravention of international law are held accountable.**

70. **The Special Representative again urges all armed actors to review, as a matter of priority, the use of aerial attacks, including drones, and night raids so as to prevent incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects.**

71. **With regard to the prevention of the recruitment and use of children, the Special Representative calls upon relevant Member States:**

(a) **To ensure enforcement of legislation prohibiting child recruitment and to strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms as a critical measure to prevent child recruitment;**

(b) **To develop prevention strategies, including through the provision of formal and/or informal education services to children and young people, in addition to the establishment of job-creation and income-generation programmes;**

(c) **To provide official development assistance to Governments in the implementation of prevention strategies.**

72. **The Special Representative reiterates her call for States to sign, ratify and/or accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and in so doing, to establish 18 years as the minimum age for voluntary recruitment into their armed forces when depositing their binding declaration (under article 3) upon ratification of the Optional Protocol.**

73. **The Special Representative encourages Member States to continue to support the mainstreaming of child protection in United Nations activities, both in field missions and at Headquarters, and to facilitate the authorization and timely deployment of child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations and special political missions, as appropriate.**